

Hafa Adai!

MHS gym remains unrepaired since Soudelor. **PAGE 3**  
Pickup hits boy crossing lane; father sues. **PAGE 5**

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 27

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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75¢

## US territories' veterans take up the fight for voting rights

**N**EW YORK CITY, NY—Plaintiffs from Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are making an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, arguing that where you live shouldn't impact your right to vote for President.

The *Segovia v. Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners*' appeal is now receiving extra support after a new crowdfunding platform, CrowdJustice, selected the case as part of its United States launch.

CrowdJustice, founded in the United Kingdom in 2015,

helps raise funds for individuals, communities and non-profits seeking justice in the legal system.

"We are excited to have our case selected by CrowdJustice, which will help bring national attention to the issue of voting rights in U.S. ter-

**See US on Page 4**

## Torres meets with Pacific Command staff

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and key officials from the island of Tinian met yesterday with the newly installed commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, Rear Adm. Shoshanna Chatfield, and other command representatives to discuss how the U.S. Department of Defense would move forward with its

plans in the CNMI.

Beginning discussions on the revised CNMI Joint Military Draft Environmental Impact Statement was also part of the meeting.

They also had consultations on the CJMT National Environmental Policy Act, an informal and somewhat unique addition to NEPA's process.

Chatfield recently replaced

**See TORRES on Page 4**

## Saipan native now a PA; is promoted



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Sidonia Williamson's rank is pinned on by her mother, Margaret Reyes, and her husband, U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Warren Williamson.

**NELLIS AFB, Nevada**—Second Lt. Sidonia Williamson earned her master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska on Feb. 2, 2017,

and was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

In attendance at her promotion were her parents, Angel **See SAIPAN on Page 4**



ONTR

The six middle school students representing the CNMI at the Junior Thespian Festival are, from left to right, Amy Solomon (monologue), Frances Pliscou (duet musical), Juliet Inocencio (duet acting), Amber Liwag (duet musical), Bonnie Gio Sagana (solo musical), and Jonathan Wolf (duet acting).

## 6 off to Thespians nationals

By YUUKI NISHIDA  
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STUDENT REPORTER

Six middle school students from the Commonwealth

will be travelling to Sacramento, California, this week to represent the islands at the Junior International Thespian Festival.

The students—all of them junior Thespian champions—will be traveling to the U.S. mainland after garnering enough ribbons to qualify for the regional competition and winning first in their category with a superior rank-

ing among other public and private school students. The events range from monologue and duet acting to solo musical and duet musical.

The six champions are Jonathan Wolf, Bonnie Gio Sa- **See THESPIANS on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Eucon has joined hands with Taiwan's Ching Kuo University.

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### NATION

The fierce battle over President Donald Trump's travel and refugee ban edged up.

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### WORLD

Syria has killed at least 13,000 people since the start of the 2011 uprising.

**PAGE 17**



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# Local

## San Nicolas prods CUC to look into old power plant

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member wants CUC's management team to look into the possible safety hazards posed by an abandoned power plant on Tinian.

CUC board member Eric San Nicolas, who represents Tinian, urged the board yesterday to look into the abandoned power plant in the District 2 area of Tinian, saying the site is already rusting and possibly a health and safety hazard to residents.

The power plant was previously operated by the Department of Public Works before CUC took over and built fuel storage tanks. The plant

was ultimately handed over to the Tinian municipality.

"No matter who owns the land now, as good custodians, we should never adopt the business practice of deferring it to someone else simply over fear of liability. The livelihood and the health of people's lives, especially those that live around the facility that is dilapidated and rusting, depend on [its removal]," said San Nicolas.

According to him, there are at least six residents within a hundred meters of the power plant.

"The power plant and the fuel storage tank have been there for over 20 years already. I remember playing there as a child with my cousins from the districts 1 and 2 areas, and it is

still there," said San Nicolas.

"It has been there for 20-plus years. It is about time that we look at it and see what we need to do about it," he added.

After further deliberation, the CUC board agreed to direct acting CUC executive director Gary Camacho to look into the matter.

"There is a discussion on the board [regarding who shoulders the costs] because the ownership of the land went from DPW to CUC to the municipality. . . . Whether it is going to be CUC or any of the three . . . is beside the point. The point is to assess it, to know what it will take to resolve the issue [and] if there is a health hazard, to [address] that issue.

## Oldest school in NMI invites public to 'fun night'

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School, considered the oldest school in the Commonwealth, will be celebrating its 70th anniversary this coming Feb. 17 and is inviting the public to attend.

Founded in 1947, the William S. Reyes Elementary School would host an event that will commemorate its standing as the first school in the CNMI.

The event would also be done

alongside the Family Fun Night of the Parent Teacher Student Association that same day.

"The Family Fun Night [is] an annual carnival-type fundraiser event on Feb. 17, 2017," said WSRES public relations coordinator Winnifred Cabrera.

It will feature free admission, entertainment, and a raffle with cash prizes and consolation prizes. Raffle tickets sell for \$1 apiece.

"This year, our PTSA is focusing its fundraising efforts to build waiting areas for parents as well as create

another drop-off zone on the north wing of the school," said Cabrera.

Another new feature for the year is the coronation of the WSRES KINGfisher and QUEENfisher Royal Court.

"Students run as candidates by selling the most raffle tickets," said Cabrera.

According to Cabrera, WSRES is accepting donations of all kinds, even taking up offers for individual performers or group performers.

For information, contact WSRES at 237-3542.

## Bill creating revenue, taxation dep't introduced in the Senate

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) has introduced a bill that would establish a Department of Revenue and Taxation that is independent from the CNMI Department of Finance.

Palacios said SB 20-1 would lessen the workload of the Finance secretary, currently occupied by Larrisa Larson, especially with the CNMI now having multiple sources of revenue.

"The Legislature finds the Finance secretary is bombarded with multiple other duties and responsibilities that she has not been able to devote enough time to the Division of Revenue and Taxation," Palacios said.

Besides Rev&Tax, the two other divisions under the Finance Department are Customs Service and Procurement and Supply.

Customs collects tariffs and controls the flow of goods—animals, goods, personal effects, and other items—that go through CNMI ports, while P&S handles the purchase of goods and other services that the various government agencies need for its daily operations.

Palacios added that the Rev&Tax Division's director post has been vacant for more than five years.

cant for more than five years.

"At the same time, new tax laws and more stringent enforcement provisions of existing laws have been enacted in order to increase revenue and tax collections," he said.

Palacios believes the CNMI could have generated more revenue from more collected taxes in the last five years only if there was a fulltime director leading the division. That's why SB 20-1 wants the entire division reorganized to develop and expand tax enforcement and other services, rather than getting a full-time director.

If the new department is established, once SB 20-1 becomes a law, will be a new agency under the Executive Branch of the CNMI government that will be headed by a secretary who will be responsible in overseeing revenue collection and enforcing the tax laws of the Commonwealth.

The new department would facilitate the collection of income, sales receipts, gaming provisions, and other taxes established by CNMI laws. It will also have Tax Services and Tax Enforcement as divisions while the secretary will also work closely with the Customs director. *(Jon Perez)*





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## MHS gym remains unrepaired since Soudelor

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas High School gymnasium has yet to be repaired since the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015.

The MHS gym, which used to host various sporting events and school events such as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, the MHS pep rally, and the MHS commencement exercises, is still unusable, much to the dismay of its students.

"Although damage was

sustained around all of MHS' campus such as roofs, classrooms, and whatnot, the gym, in my opinion, should have been their priority. Until now, we don't see any change," said a senior at MHS.

"As a senior, in the past two years, the gym was the central place. That was where we held our pep rally, our graduation, etc. For the past two years, we had to do all our events outside, which [was] very hectic. We had to worry about the weather all the time and it is just harder without the gym," she added.

"The Physical Education and Reserve Officer Training Corps curriculum are affected. [MHS students] have to share the ROTC building [with] the [Physical Education] class, so physical activity is affected."

An MHS junior said the gym's equipment also sustained damage.

"All of the equipment that was inside of the gym got damaged as well because [MHS] did not do anything to protect the damaged area of the roof. [MHS] has been waiting [for funding] but by the time they were done waiting, it has all

been ruined," she said.

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* that the initial completion date for the renovation of the gym was in December 2016 but, due to unexpected delays and issues, reconstruction has yet to begin.

"I am not sure what all the issues are, but part of the issues are getting supplies and construction materials to the island and I [believe] there is another issue with the contractors. Our latest update is [construction] would start soon, within [this] month or

so, and hopefully would be done by September or October," said Cabrera.

Cabrera agreed with the students that the gym is indeed needed, adding that graduation for the Class of 2017 seems like it would not be held in the gym at all.

"We are still thinking about the [graduation venue]. We would wait and see if the gym would be done in time for the graduation. As of today, it looks like it would not be, so we would be discussing with our graduating class what the options for

them are," said Cabrera.

The MHS gym was initially completed in 2001.

The Public School System, in partnership with the Department of Public Works, Philippine Goods Inc., and the Efrain F. Camacho Architects and Engineers all worked together to build the \$2.4-million facility that has three classrooms, three physical fitness workout areas, one weightlifting room, locker rooms, and shower. The gym has been closed to the public and the students due to safety issues since the third quarter of 2015.

## CPA drops complaint vs *Luta* owner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority voluntarily dropped yesterday its intervening complaint in Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and owner/operators of cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

CPA counsel Robert T. Torres informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that *Luta* Mermaid LLC, the owner of M/V *Luta*, and CPA have come to terms resolving the debt owed CPA.

CPA filed the intervening complaint to collect \$20,463 in alleged unpaid services from the M/V *Luta* owner.

Torres asked the court yesterday to discontinue any review of CPA's intervening complaint that might lead to the issuance of a warrant of arrest of M/V *Luta* based on CPA's complaint.

As no arrest warrant has been issued on CPA's behalf, Torres said the court should acknowledge that CPA owes no custodial fees or costs for the seized M/V *Luta*.

The lawyer said the notice of dismissal deals only with the pre-arrest debts owed CPA, and is not in any way a waiver of any post-arrest amounts due to CPA during the custodial period of M/V *Luta*.

According to Torres in CPA's intervening complaint, from March through October 2016, CPA provided necessities to M/V *Luta* at each of its three ports: the Port of Saipan, the Port of Tinian, and Rota West Harbor.

These necessities were for dockage and entry at these ports.

Torres said CPA invoiced M/V *Luta*'s ownership for these necessities it has not received any payments.

A week before CPA filed the complaint, Rota Terminal & Transfer Co. Inc., through counsel Janet H. King, requested the court to allow it to intervene in Yamamoto's lawsuit. The company claims that M/V *Luta* owes a total of \$165,766 in services, costs, fees, and interest.

King said from March 17,

2016 to Oct. 31, 2016, Rota Terminal provided stevedoring services, agency services, notice of arrival clearances, vessel clearances, cargo clearances, government clearances, cargo booking services, and administrative services to M/V *Luta*.

Three groups have already intervened in Yamamoto's lawsuit. They are a former captain of M/V *Luta* and six crewmembers, Long Consulting LLC, and Norton Lilly International. The captain and crewmembers are demanding payment of \$183,648 in unpaid wages, while Long Consulting is claiming \$300,000 in unpaid services. Norton Lilly is claiming \$131,801 in unpaid services.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship. The National Maritime Services was then appointed as custodian of the vessel.

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## TORRES

From Page 1

Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, who has been assigned as commander of the Navy Region Southeast, Jacksonville, Florida.

Yesterday's initial meeting with Chatfield was the first of what is expected to be a series of talks that would establish protocols and set out issues for future discussions.

The U.S. Marines also aims to use the series of meetings to help them prepare a revised draft environmental impact statement on the proposed CJMT project.

Torres and other key CNMI officials want to include the findings and recommendations that were written on the

Section 902 final report to the CJMT process. The 902 report came out last month and was transmitted to congressional leaders on Jan. 20.

Torres, along with Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, also gave Chatfield an update on what have been discussed with Bolivar and USPACOM deputy commander Lt. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield.

Chatfield replaced Bolivar as JRM Commander in a change of command ceremony last Jan. 27 at the Fr. Duenas Phoenix Center in Mangilao, Guam. She previously served as the U.S. Deputy Military Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium.

Aside from being JRM's commander, Chatfield will be the commander of the U.S. Naval Force Marianas, the U.S. Pacific Command's senior military official in the region—Guam, CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau—and commander of Task Force West.

Torres said the meeting also updated Chatfield and other military officials on the result and recommendations that were discussed in the 902 talks and the final report that was transmitted to congressional leaders last month.

"Following the Section 902 consultations with the U.S. Department of Defense regarding the proposed use of Tinian and Pagan, we met today with the Pacific Command personnel to discuss the

possible steps to move forward and restart the revised CJMT draft EIS," said Torres.

He said the CNMI also wants to do its share in keeping the nation safe but without sacrificing the interests of the people of the Commonwealth.

"I am particularly interested in the CNMI doing its part for our national security, but still balancing our limited resources and agreements set out in the Covenant."

"I look forward to reengaging in productive conversations that will continue to take the concerns of the people of the CNMI into full consideration for the CJMT Revised DEIS that will soon start up again."

Torres said he is looking forward to building a working relationship with Chatfield after yesterday's meeting.

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fifth left, and Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Shoshanna Chatfield, sixth left, led both panels in yesterday's meeting to discuss the U.S. Department of Defense's military plans in the region.

## THESPIANS

From Page 1

gana, Juliet Inocencio, Amber Liwag, Amy Solomon, and Frances Pliscou.

Amber Liwag and Frances Pliscou will represent the islands in duet musical. Liwag hopes to learn more about thespians and improve in her acting skills. Amy Solomon will represent in the monologue category.

Bonnie Gio Sagana, who will be returning to the festival for solo musical, told *Saipan Tribune* that he looks forward

to challenging other competitors while making new friends.

Jonathan Wolf, who will represent the islands in duet acting with Juliet Inocencio, hopes to improve himself and win in his event. Both Sagana and Wolf attended the Junior Thespian Festival last year in February in Denison, Texas.

The Junior International Thespian Festival is considered the largest junior theater festival in the nation. Thousands of middle school students from around the globe take part in its diverse theater categories every year.

## US

From Page 1

ritories while also providing important resources to expand our advocacy," said Neil Weare, President and Founder of We the People Project, a non-profit that advocates for equal rights and representation in U.S. territories. "The message we have for the rest of the country is that where you live should not impact your right to vote for President or have voting representation in Congress."

Over 4 million Americans (a population larger than that of 24 individual states) are treated with a second-class status because they live in a U.S. territory.

Last year, a federal district court in Illinois ruled for the first time that if you live in a U.S. territory voting is not a "fundamental right," upholding federal and state laws that permit former residents of Illinois to continue voting for President by absentee ballot if they move to U.S. territories like the Northern Mariana Is-

lands or American Samoa (or a foreign country), but not if they move to Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren criticized this discriminatory treatment during a Senate hearing last year.

The issue of territorial voting rights has also been featured in a powerful segment by HBO comedian John Oliver.

If successful, the appeal could expand voting rights in U.S. territories, and would create a circuit split that could bring these important issues to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The veterans involved in the case are among the over 120,000 U.S. military veterans currently living in U.S. territories.

"The right to vote is a core tenet of democracy," said Julia Salasky, CEO of CrowdJustice. "Segovia is a fascinating case that brings up issues that many Americans may not be aware of—we are thrilled that We the People Project is part of our U.S. launch."

We the People Project is raising \$10,000 to help cover the costs of the appeal to the

Seventh Circuit. Contributors have until March 14 to pledge toward the target goal at [www.CrowdJustice.org/RightToVote](http://www.CrowdJustice.org/RightToVote). Pledges don't result in any charges unless the target goal is met. All contributions to support the case are tax deductible, since We the People Project is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

The lead plaintiff, Luis Segovia, is a member of the Guam Army National Guard, serving two deployments to Afghanistan. He also was deployed to provide security during the 2005 Iraqi Elections.

"Veterans and soldiers from Guam and other U.S. territories have pledged allegiance to the flag and fought to protect and defend our country, only to be denied the right to vote," Segovia said.

On March 31, 2017, the U.S. Virgin Islands will celebrate 100 years as part of the United States. Pamela Colon, a criminal defense lawyer in St. Croix who is a plaintiff in the case, said "Voting rights would mean having a say in who our President is, who our federal

judges are, and what laws we are required to follow."

One week after CrowdJustice launched in the United States to raise funds for *Trump v. Aziz*—the powerful case of Tareq and Ahmed Aziz, two brothers from Yemen who were stopped from entering the U.S. from Yemen, on lawful green cards to which they were entitled—the crowdfunding case came to a close. On Monday, they were reunited with their father, Aquel, at Dulles Airport. CrowdJustice's first U.S. campaign was launched by the Legal Aid Justice Center—a legal advocacy shop that fights injustice and inequality in the lives of individual Virginians—to raise money for those detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents.

CrowdJustice's U.S. launch comes fresh off the heels of winning a monumental case on Brexit where the plaintiffs crowdfunded a "people's challenge" all the way to the Supreme Court, which agreed that Parliament must authorize the UK leaving the European Union. (PR)

## SAIPAN

From Page 1

and Margaret Reyes of Pago, and friends and family who traveled from all over the United States such as Nebraska, Colorado, Arizona, and California.

Williamson was sworn in by her cousin, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Christine Torres Igisomar, who is also a Saipan native.

Williamson was born and raised on Saipan. She attended Mount Carmel School for most of her school years, moving to Las Vegas to complete her senior year of high school.

She enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after high school in 2004, and served as an emergency medical technician.

She has been posted to duty stations in Florida, South Korea, Okinawa, and Maryland. She has also completed two deployments to Iraq.

With her new designation as a Physician Assistant, she and her husband, Air Force Technical Sgt. Warren Williamson, will travel to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio for

their next tour of duty.

Williamson acknowledges her family and their strong island values played a large part in her success as a military officer.

"I was one of the first in my family to join the military, and I knew that if I did well, my younger relatives would see that joining the military and being successful wouldn't be so far-fetched," she said. "I also have great family support. My family never questioned my ambitions, so I am motivated not to let them down."

Her cousin, Igisomar, reflects on the qualities that Williamson possesses: "Since our days at Mount Carmel School, she always struck me as a hard worker. She was never lazy; she always put her head down and put effort into everything. I admire her grit."

"When I was young, I thought someone had to be a bona fide genius to work in the medical field," Williamson said. "As I started my career in the Air Force, I realized that all someone has to do is work hard, and not be afraid to sweat and put in time." (PR)

## Sex-abuse charges re-filed vs Rota cop

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has re-filed the charges against a Rota police officer accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub, counsel for the government, re-filed the information last Jan. 25, less than two months after dropping the case.

The new information charged 49-year-old Melvin Maratita Manglona with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace. These are the same charges in the previous information the OAG dismissed.

Manglona was directed to respond to the charges before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Rota on Feb. 27 at 9am.

Last Dec. 15, Weintraub moved to dismiss the charges against Manglona without

prejudice, which meant the government could re-file the case in the future.

In the government's voluntary dismissal of the case, Weintraub said the alleged victim and the witnesses reside on Rota, and there had been no opportunity to interview them in person.

Weintraub said the government has received information regarding the alleged victim that requires further investigation to determine whether prosecuting Manglona is in the best interest of justice.

Prior to the case's dismissal, Weintraub filed a motion to reset the trial, saying she is going off-island. Camacho denied the motion, saying the jury summons have already been issued for 750 potential jurors on Rota.

The OAG alleged that Manglona sexually abused the 14-year-old girl last July and Aug. 11, 2016, on Rota. The girl told police that the defendant has been sexually abusing her since she was 9.

## 2 witnesses to testify via Skype

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A Saipan teacher and a former Guam prosecutor who now lives on Saipan have been directed to testify in the ongoing jury trial of a former Guam police officer accused of fatally shooting a fellow officer in Yigo, Guam.

In an order on Monday, CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho commanded Saipan International School teacher Kathy Ruzsala and former Guam assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio to testify on Feb. 20, 2017, via Skype in the trial of Mark A. Torre Jr.

Camacho issued the order after Torre, through counsel Victorino DLG Torres, asked the Superior Court to command Ruzsala and Tenorio to testify in Torre's trial in Guam.

Torres said that Guam Superior Court Judge Michael J. Bordallo has granted Torre's motion for an order commanding Ruzsala and Tenorio to appear at trial on Feb. 20 and a motion requesting assistance

of the Superior Court.

Torre is accused of shooting and killing Sgt. Elbert Piolo, a fellow officer in the Guam Police Department, as the two sat inside a pickup truck parked outside Torre's home in Yigo on July 13, 2015. Torres pleaded not guilty; his defense is that he was trying to prevent Piolo from committing suicide.

Attorney Joaquin C. Arriola Jr., Guam counsel for Torre, said that Tenorio told Guam AG investigators, her co-workers at the time on July 12, 2015, that she and Piolo were close friends.

Arriola said Tenorio was subpoenaed to appear by the defense and while awaiting her appearance before the Guam court, after opening statements, she advised him (Arriola) that she is now a resident of Saipan.

Arriola said Tenorio asked to be called "out of order" in the presentation of evidence, and prior to her departure.

Arriola did not mention Ruzsala's possible testimony in the trial.

## Pickup hits boy crossing lane; father sues

A man is suing the driver of a car that hit and injured his son who was crossing a pedestrian lane on Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Lau-lau last Dec. 1.

The boy was with his brother and they were crossing the highway to get to a bus stop when the incident happened.

Jason Fitial, through counsel David G. Banes, filed the lawsuit on behalf of his two sons.

Fitial and his children are suing Jinchai Liu in Superior Court for negligence and

negligent infliction of emotional distress. They want Liu to be held liable for damages and court costs.

According to Banes in the complaint, the brothers were crossing the pedestrian lane along Chalan Pale Arnold, also known as Middle Road, to head to a bus stop south from the Quartermaster traffic light, last Dec. 1 at 6:30am.

A government vehicle on the southbound inner lane stopped for the boys and

turned its hazard lights on. As the boys were crossing the road, a silver 2005 Mazda B series pickup truck driven by Liu kept driving on the northbound inner lane. The government vehicle honked its horn to alert the truck of the boys crossing the street.

That's when the truck hit one of the boys, who lost consciousness. An ambulance was called and the boy was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was treated.

Banes said the boy suffered injuries to the head, neck, and face.

He was confined at the hospital and had to wear a neck brace. His face was swollen for days and he had pain on the leg. He missed school for several days.

Banes said the other boy suffered severe shock, fear and anxiety. The boy thought his brother was dead.

Banes said Liu admitted that she was speeding and that she was at fault. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



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# NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.



**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.



**Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.**

# Eucon offers home care, hospitality training programs

By DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO  
demalynn\_pagarao@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Eucon International University has joined hands with Taiwan's Ching Kuo University to offer a hospitality and home care training program that is being touted as a means to address the labor shortage in the Commonwealth.

Eucon University president Dr. Christian Wei introduced the Home Care and Hospitality Professional Training to the public in an opening ceremony last Monday at the Eucon auditorium.

He credited Northern Island Mayor Jerome Aldan and former lawmaker William Torres as the brains behind the idea.

Reps. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Sens. Frank Cruz (R-Saipan) and Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), and Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Luis John Castro and vice chair Diego Kaipat were present to witness the launch.

Mesngon said the hospitality training comes at the right moment, given the workforce struggle the CNMI is facing.

"We appreciate a program like this. It will give us hope that the future of the CNMI is bright through partners that believe and invest in the



DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO

Students, Taiwan's Ching Kuo University instructors, Eucon International University personell, and CNMI officials have their picture taken after the launch of Eucon's Home Care and Hospitality Professional Training program.

Commonwealth. Addressing the needs of the Commonwealth and sustaining our economy for the benefit of our residents and visitors is not easy," he said.

Sablan said, "CKU's expertise is much needed with our growing infrastructure. It is important that we have our people ready to take on a fast growing economy that cater to both locals and tourists."

Castro sees home care training as something the CNMI

needs, not only for the future but also right now. "We have a lot of elderly people who need your help. In our culture, our elders should be treated with great respect. To have a training that will provide the professional needs of our elderly is greatly desired. This will not only help the local workforce, but the international force as well," Castro said.

Eucon created its partnership with Ching Kuo University on the two-week

program after a process that took nearly three years.

"Dr. Wei came to me three years ago to help establish this training, but I said I was not ready, my team was not ready.

But we are ready now, and our number one mission is to serve the CNMI," said CKU chair Rick Chang.

Chang brought with him his team of five instructors.



DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO

Rick Chang, chairman of the Ching Kuo University, delivers his remarks on the opening ceremony of the Home Care and Hospitality Professional Training at the Eucon University.

His head chef, who will head the hospitality department, is top of the line in Taiwan. He has competed all over the world and has brought back with him awards. He will be joined by a table server and a bartender. CKU's chairperson of the nursing program will lead the home care department, along with a professor of home care from CKU.

Right now, Eucon has 10 students in the home care department and three in hospitality.

The program already started on Monday, but Eucon is still accepting students.

The program is free for local residents and legal workers. However, there is a \$100 deposit fee that Eucon will return when residents compete the program. For international students, there is an \$800 fee.

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

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# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## CUC-RFP-17-016

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### FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to prepare a comparative feasibility assessment of water supply treatment alternatives, including desalination (RO and thermal/evaporative). The assessment will compare, at a minimum, location, type, size, cost, and funding options for each alternative to implement, construct and operate.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room No. 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **February 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. A teleconference number will be provided to interested off-island participants to call in and attend.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies**, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP-17-016 - Feasibility Study of Water Supply Alternatives for the Island of Saipan" to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 02, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2017**, to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address at [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email address [william.gilmore@cucgov.org](mailto:william.gilmore@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**WILLIAM GILMORE**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

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### INVITATION TO BID

## ITB NO.: ITB17-DLNR/DOA-093

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**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRAURY 28, 2017**      **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

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### "LEASE OF A 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK (4 FULL DOORS) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN**  
SECRETARY OF DLNR

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
DIRECTOR, P&S

## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

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### INVITATION TO BID

## ITB NO.: ITB17-TDLNR-085-CIF TINIAN

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**SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 01, 2017**      **TIME: 9:30A.M.**

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### "PURCHASE OF A TRACTOR MOWER WITH 3 ATTACHMENTS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS**  
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

**/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA**  
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
DIRECTOR, P&S

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THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	: CIVIL ACTION : NO.: 11-0044
Plaintiff,	:
-v-	:
HENRY SABLAN HOFSCHEIDER and ELENA BABAUTA HOFSCHEIDER,	: Defendants :

**SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 72, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Land and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat no. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Record's File no. 90-1900, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

# Kilili to host free Veterans Resource Fair in Feb.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is hosting the first Northern Marianas Veterans Resource Fair this month, to provide veterans, military service members, and their families with information about federal and local programs that are available to assist and support them. The event is free and open to the public.

"The goal of this Veterans Resource Fair is to help connect those who have served in our nation's military, and our military families, with the resources that can benefit them right here in the Marianas," Sablan said. "I encourage our

veterans, service members, and their families on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to come to the fair on their respective islands, learn more about the different programs that are available, and meet with the agencies and service providers who are here to help them."

The dates, times, and venues for the Veterans Resource Fair are as follows:

■ SAIPAN – Feb. 22, Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, 1pm – 7pm

■ TINIAN – Feb. 23, NMC Instructional Site, 10am – 4pm

■ ROTA – Feb. 24, Rota Resort, 10am – 4pm

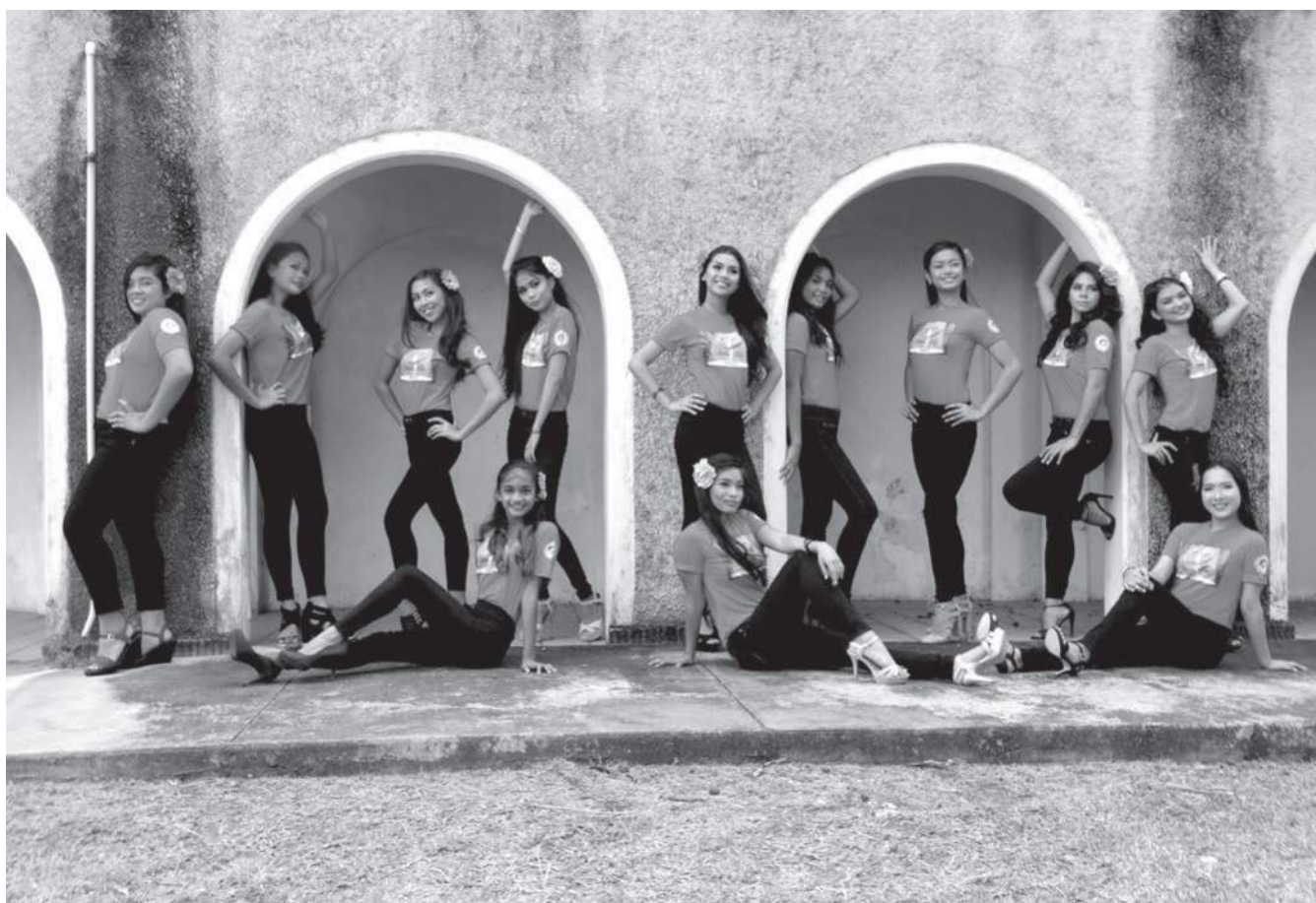
Representatives of the

Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration will be at all three events to answer questions and assist with enrollment or claims.

Other Veterans Resource Fair participants will include the U.S. Army Reserve's Family Programs, the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, various civilian health providers who work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver care to veterans in the Marianas, and a wide range of Commonwealth agencies and community organizations offering services in education

and career training, employment assistance and vocational rehabilitation, counseling, legal aid, disability advocacy, emergency assistance, social support, and more.

Veterans and military families who wish to meet with VA representatives at the fair are asked to bring supporting documents (i.e., copies of DD214 forms, medical records, marriage or birth certificates for dependents, etc.) that may be relevant to their questions or claims. For more information, contact the congressional office at (670) 323-2647 or email Kilili@mail.house.gov. **(PR)**



DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO

The 12 candidates of the Miss *Pusong Pinoy* pose during a photo shoot on Feb. 5, 2017, at the CNMI Museum.

## 12 vie for Miss *Pusong Pinoy* title

**DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO**  
demalynn\_pagarao@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Twelve young women will be vying for the title of Miss *Pusong Pinoy* on Feb. 25 at the Saipan World Resort.

Marlon Regaton, president of the United Filipino Organization that is sponsoring the contest, is excited about the pageant this year. *Pusong Pinoy*, which means "Filipino heart" in Tagalog, is one of the annual signature events of UFO.

"*Pusong Pinoy* is a celebration for the whole community," said Regaton. "I enjoy this

kind of event the most because it involves our youth." The ages of the contestants range from 13 to 17.

A \$5 entrance fee will the audience a chance to watch these ladies compete in talent, evening gown, and places from 4th runner-up to going home with the crown. Other awards that will be given are Miss Congeniality and Miss Charity trophies.

"We try to make it not only about beauty, but make these girls view this as a personality development training," said Regaton.

The candidates have a calen-

dar filled with events leading up to the pageant. Yesterday, they met with Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua to gain some insight on the life of a beauty queen. They will also have a meet-and-greet with the officers of UFO, along with many ours of practice.

One of the contestants, Jenalyn Tinio, has always been intrigued about joining the pageant.

"Every year since UFO has been doing this pageant, I performed in the intermissions with Saipan Music & Dance Studio and I always battled with myself if I was confident

enough to join the pageant. But with the push of my fellow dancers, I am giving it a try this year," Tinio said.

She looks forward to learning more of how to express her feminine side confidently.

"This is more than a pageant. We use this as a way to give back to the community too," said UFO event director Ernie Molina. "We make an effort to donate proceeds to a charity every year."

Molina and Joewel Estrellanes, the pageant director and choreographer, are excited to give a show full of poise, beauty, and fun. Major sponsors are IT&E, LBC, PHI Pharmacy, and JC Marketing.

## Iglecias receives University of Iowa degree

**IOWA CITY, IA**—Mariano Iglecias, a native of Saipan, received a BSE-Civil Engineering degree from the University of Iowa at the close of the fall 2016 semester.

The University of Iowa is one of the nation's premier public research universities, dedicated to academic excellence, groundbreaking discoveries and creations, commitment to Iowa

and the world, and a culture that prizes community, diversity, and opportunity.

The U.I. is known around the world for its leadership in the arts, sciences, and humani-

ties. It is home to the first and best creative writing program in the world, a world-class academic medical center and one of America's top teaching hospitals, and a can-do culture that fosters a campus-wide dedication to student success. **(PR)**



### Northern Marianas College

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Re-Announcement No. 16-001

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/12/2017

**Program Coordinator I (Institutional Marketing)**  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
20/01 – 20/02  
\$24,330.79 – \$25,182.37  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Re-Announcement No. 16-010

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/11/2017

**Instructor (Hospitality/Tourism)**  
Business  
32/01 – 32/02  
\$41,527.83 – \$42,981.30  
As Terlaje Campus  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 16-031

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 11/09/2016

**Clinical Instructor (Nursing)**  
Nursing  
30/01 – 31/02  
\$38,394.81 – \$39,738.63  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Re-Announcement No. 16-033

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 2/2/2017

**Scientist, Horticulture/Crop**  
CREES  
35/01 – 35/02  
\$51,330.34 – \$53,126.90  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Re-Announcement No. 16-034

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/11/17

**Program Manager I (UCEDD)**  
Administration and Resource Development  
28/01 – 28/02  
\$35,674.68 – \$36,923.30  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Re-Announcement No. 16-039

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 2/1/2017

**Accountant I - II (Accounts Payable)**  
Finance  
26/01 – 28/02  
I: \$32,419.71-\$33,554.40 / II: \$35,674.68-\$36,923.30  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 16-041

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 12/09/2016

**Coordinator, Distance Learning Education**  
Academic Programs & Services  
32/01 – 32/02  
\$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 16-042

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 12/9/2016

**Department Chair II**  
Sciences, Math, Health, and Athletics  
34/01 – 34/02  
\$49,356.09 – \$51,083.56  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-001

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/03/2017

**Coordinator, Prior Learning**  
Academic Programs and Services  
32/01 – 32/02  
\$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-002

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/3/2017

**Instructor (Science)**  
Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics  
32/01 – 32/02  
\$41,527.83 – \$42,981.30  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-003

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/10/2017

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Office of the President  
Ungraded  
\$50,000.00 – \$60,000.00 (Depending on Qualification)  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-005

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date:

**Extension Agent**  
(Agriculture/Community Development)  
CREES (Rota Site)  
29/01 – 29/02  
\$40,567.11 – \$41,986.96  
Rota, CNMI  
1/19/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-006

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date:

**Program Lead: Extension and Research Communications Specialist**  
CREES  
32/01 – 35/02  
\$45,632.48 – \$53,126.90 (Depending on Qualifications)  
Saipan, CNMI  
1/23/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-007

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/30/2017

**Marketing Manager**  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
32/01 – 32/02  
\$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-008

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Pay Level & Step:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 2/3/2017

**Instructor (Fine Arts Visual)**  
Social Sciences and Fine Arts  
32/01 – 32/02  
\$41,527.83 – \$42,981.30  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: 2/13/2017 or Until Filled

### Announcement No. 17-009

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Minimum Pay Level & Step:  
Minimum Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/31/2017

**Administrative Assistant III**  
Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics  
19/01 – 19/02  
\$23,194.27 – \$24,006.07  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

*Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

# Masons install new officers

In a ceremony rich in tradition and full of pomp and circumstance, the local chapter of the Masonic movement in the CNMI held its 26th installation of officers last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

The Susupe hotel's cavernous Royal Taga Hall was transformed overnight into a Masonic chamber. The close to four-hour event saw Wilfredo "Boy" G. Ching installed as worshipful master of Emon Lodge No. 179's Free and Accepted Masons for Masonic year 2017-2018.

Also installed to senior posts were Lito Espino, senior warden; Arnel Metran, junior warden; Romeo Malasarte, secretary; Casiano Bostre, treasurer; and Daniel Banez, auditor.

Malasarte was installed *in absentia* as he is off-island recovering from an undisclosed medical operation.

Appointed officers that were sworn in were Carlon Eslaban, chaplain; Isagani Benozza, marshal; Wendell Posadas, senior deacon; Joel Subang, junior deacon; Pepe Cristomo, lecturer; Pete Reyes, orator; Saturnino Alciso Jr., almoner; Victor Brana, organist; Joselito Arce, tyler; Val Bolivar, senior steward; and Leo Canedo, junior steward.

Retired generals Juanito B.



MARK RABAGO

Worshipful master Wilfredo "Boy" G. Ching and other officers of Emon Lodge No. 179 pose for a group photo.



MARK RABAGO

Worshipful master Wilfredo "Boy" G. Ching is flanked by senior warden Lito Espino, left, and junior warden Arnel Metran.

## Ex-convict gets prison term for punching man

An ex-convict who repeatedly punched a man at a store on Saipan last Oct. 25 was slapped with a one-year prison term.

Peterson Joseph Keju, 25, pleaded guilty to assault and battery last week. He also admitted violating his probation.

Keju was sentenced to seven months in prison for assault and battery, and five months of his suspended prison sentence for violating the terms and conditions of his probation.

He was given credit for time served from Nov. 16, 2016.

After completing this prison

term, Keju will be placed on supervised probation for three years. He was ordered to pay the victim, Juan Cepeda, \$1,148 in restitution for medical bills.

Keju is prohibited from any contact with the victims, Cepeda, Yao Wei Ma, and the L&Q Market.

He is not allowed to possess or consume any alcoholic beverages during his probation. He was required to complete alcohol counseling.

Last Nov. 9, the Office of the Attorney General charged Keju with two counts of assault and battery,

two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of criminal mischief.

While intoxicated, Keju allegedly assaulted Cepeda and Ma at L&Q Market, punching Cepeda in the face several times.

On Oct. 6, 2015, Keju pleaded guilty to assault and battery. In that case, while intoxicated he punched a man in Garapan on Sept. 2, 2015. He also kicked three parked vehicles. Aside from the prison term, he was placed on probation for a year. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



MARK RABAGO

Master of Ceremonies Juanito B. Vaño, right, hands the gavel to Emon Lodge No. 179 worshipful master Wilfredo "Boy" G. Ching.

Vaño, Dennis J. Peña, and Romeo G. Gan and businessman James A. Olayvar served as installing officers.

In his message, Ching thanked his fellow Masons for their confidence in electing him. Ching has been a Mason for 25 years.

"With your absolute support to realize our righteous goals, this lodge will succeed despite the effects of the challenging times," he said.

The previous worshipful master, Pepe R. Crisostomo, thanked his brothers for allowing him to lead them the past year.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have served this lodge as a worshipful master and pledge my support to my successor and to this lodge in the continuation of our efforts to achieve our shared Masonic goals," he said.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines grand master Voltaire Gazmin, who was the 35th secretary of the Philippines' Department of National Defense, wasn't able to attend last weekend's installation but sent a message, which was read by Danilo E. San Pedro, a past district grand lecturer.

"I cannot underscore enough the importance of your lodge in the propagation of the Masonic light in this part of the world. Your installation ceremony marks your continuing commitment to the ideals of our craft in this little Pacific paradise. This is testament to the universality of freemasonry and shows that indeed in every country and in every climate Masons are to be found," read his letter.

More than 50 of Emon Lodge No. 179 members' family and friends attended the installation. **(Mark Rabago)**

## KeShaun Nabors named to spring Q1 dean's list

**LEXINGTON, MO**—Wentworth Military Academy and College announced over the weekend that KeShaun Nabors, of Tinian, has been named to the dean's list for the first quarter spring 2016-2017 academic year. Students with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher are named to the dean's list. **(PR)**

## JKPL ukulele lessons start Feb. 15

Regular ukulele lessons for both beginner and intermediate classes will start next Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library; the classes will be instructed by Larry Lee.

Coordinator Celina C. Foreman said beginner and intermediate classes would be held every Wednesday from 4pm to 5pm at JKPL's Children of our Homeland Library.

Classes are open to children at least 8 years old as well as adults. Cost for the lessons is \$50 for all eight hours of instruction.

Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold sheet music. Plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended.

Parents and guardians also need to secure a liability

waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to JKPL policies and procedures.

JKPL's ukulele classes have a minimum enrollment of 15 students and maximum enrollment of 40.

For more information, visit the library in Susupe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322-23, fax 235-7550. **(Saipan Tribune)**

# Lawmaker claims raw oysters led to food poisoning

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Vinson Flores Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has said he was one of those who became ill after eating raw oysters at a restaurant during a dinner party in 2015.

In a separate lawsuit, Sablan sued InterPacific Resorts (Saipan) Corp., owner of Pacific Islands Club, and Delta Trading Co., Ltd., owner of H-Mart, for negligence, breach of warranties, violation of Consumer Protection Act, strict liability, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Sablan, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, asked the Superior Court to hold the

defendants liable for damages. He is demanding a jury trial.

The claims and facts in Sablan's lawsuit are identical to a separate lawsuit that was filed earlier against the same defendants by nine other persons, including Dr. Lorenzo Hocog, who claimed they became ill after eating oysters at the same party.

Fitzgerald is also counsel for Hocog and eight co-plaintiffs.

InterPacific Resorts, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, has filed a complaint against Delta Trading. Pierce asserted that if the oysters were defective, the liability for any harm lies upon Delta Trading since it was the one that placed the products in the stream of commerce.

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In Sablan's case, Fitzgerald said that Sablan, who was a guest of an FHP/Take Care employee, participated in a company-sponsored dinner party on Feb. 6, 2015, at PIC's Charley's Cabaret. The party consisted of 25 FHP employees and guests.

Fitzgerald said the oysters served at the dinner buffet, purchased from Delta Trading

by PIC, appeared to be fresh and wholesome.

He said Sablan ate the oysters and the next morning, became violently ill.

Fitzgerald said said other members of the group Sablan was with also became sick.

He said this was reported to the CNMI Department of Public Health. DPH later determined that the person who

became ill were those who ate raw oysters at PIC on Feb. 6, 2015.

Fitzgerald said PIC did nothing to investigate the food poisoning of Sablan and simply denied that PIC could be the source.

Fitzgerald said a second incident of food poisoning involving raw oysters occurred at PIC shortly after that FHP/

Take Care dinner party.

He noted that on March 5, 2015, Delta Trading informed PIC that the oysters that Delta Trading was distributing to PIC had been recalled as a result of a request by the Food and Drug Administration.

Fitzgerald said PIC's failure to inform Sablan of the FDA's recall was "intentional, deliberate, reckless and malicious, designed to conceal the fact that PIC had served contaminated oysters to plaintiff..."

## Power outage on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017, from 6:30am to 11:30am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely con-

tinue change out of wooden power poles to concrete power poles along Dandan Rd. in Dandan. This is an ongoing program to strengthen and harden the integrity of the distribution circuit.

Areas to be affected: Dandan Rd. (Atdao St.,

Ayuda St., Ayuda Ct., Tenda Av., Sailing Dr., Exchange Ln., Pution Ln., Pulan Ln., Mapagahes Ln., Trolling Pl., Walking Pl., Fishing Pl., Adios Pl., Kattan Hudda Dr., Kamma Pl., Hook Ln., Parasail Pl., Batu Pl., Gabbe Pl., and Tokpong Pl.)

Because of the scale of work that will be performed,

travelers are being encouraged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Bodybuilding federation to host fundraiser

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation will be holding a "Party in the Park" on Feb. 25, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse) to raise funds for our bodybuilders to compete in local and international competitions. The cost is \$20 per person.

The federation is preparing for the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, and in July it will be holding the CNMI bodybuilding championships. These events will be officially sanctioned by NMBPF and will determine those competitors who will be eligible to represent the CNMI in international competitions.

For tickets, contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or email [jeanneesq@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneesq@yahoo.com) or Karen Davis, at 789-9214. (PR)

### McFun Run to take place on Feb. 18

The Rotary Club of Saipan and McDonald's Saipan will be hosting the Annual McFun Run on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, along Saipan's beautiful Beach Road pathway. This event for 5K and 10K runs along the pathway from the Carolinian *utt* in Garapan to the 5K turnaround by the National Office Supply or the turnaround at the Oleai Beach Bar and Grill and back to the Carolinian *utt*. Registration begins at 5am at the Carolinian *utt*. Start time is 6:15am. Registration forms are available or can be picked up at all Saipan McDonald's branches, Mega-Byte, or NMPSI office. (PR)

### Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517)

on Feb. 8 from noon to 10pm and Feb. 9 from 10am to noon. The U.S. military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 10 from 9am to 1pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

### Calling Tinian homestead applicants

Current Tinian homestead applicants interested in finding out the status of their homestead applications can contact Lisa Aguon, DPL Tinian Office, at (670) 433-9245 to book an appointment on Feb. 2 or 3, 2017. (PR)

### Become a Reading Ranger at AMP

The American Memorial Park is inviting first to third graders on Saipan to participate in this year's first Reading Ranger selection. Over three days, Feb. 7, 8, and 9, from 3pm to 4:30pm, young readers will be guided through *The Unbreakable Code* by Sara Hoagland Hunter by a park ranger.

To register your child, call lead ranger Brooke Nevitt or Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020. There are a limited number of spaces and participation will be determined by the date of registration. For more information on events at American Memorial Park, contact Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at: [brooke\\_nevitt@nps.gov](mailto:brooke_nevitt@nps.gov). (NPS)

## UOG Biology students do advanced research in NY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of Guam biology majors Ana Capati and Aubriana Perez conduct research at the University of Rochester in New York alongside mentor and UOG chemistry professor Dr. Naushadalli Suleman. From left to right: Capati, Suleman, and Perez stand in a lab at the University of Rochester.

Last summer, two University of Guam biology majors conducted research at the University of Rochester in New York alongside mentor and UOG chemistry professor Dr. Naushadalli Suleman.

To cover the cost of the 10-week fellowships, the university partnered with the Rotary Club of Guam and South Pacific Petroleum Corp. to raise over \$13,000.

"We're so thankful to Dr. Suleman, UOG, and all our sponsors for making it possible for us to be a part of this research project," Capati said.

Capati, Perez, and Suleman

worked with a team of University of Rochester graduate students led by distinguished organic photochemist Dr. Joseph Dinnocenzo. Their research investigated how and why certain bonds between carbon and tin atoms break during certain chemical reactions.

"It is expected that the insights gained from these studies will be helpful in designing and synthesizing new materials," Suleman said.

### An 'eye opening experience'

Capati and Perez also had received training and worked

on sophisticated lab equipment worth millions. "It was an 'eye-opening' experience," said Perez.

Participating in research fellowships allows students to gain valuable professional experience, said Suleman.

"In many instances, undergraduate research fellowships at major U.S. universities can provide extraordinary opportunities for advanced training and professional development of our chemistry students," he said. "Ana and Aubri refined their skills for purifying chemical compounds and learned specialized techniques for the

handling of hazardous and air-sensitive reagents while performing sophisticated multi-step chemical reactions."

While taking part in the research fellowship was exciting, both students said they were glad they chose to attend UOG because of the quality of education they've received.

"The biology and chemistry programs here at UOG are great," Capati said. "Dr. Suleman doesn't accept mediocre effort. And he's a big factor as to why UOG students in biology and chemistry graduate and enter biomedical disciplines." (UOG)

## 11 students head to Japan for exchange program

Eleven students will be participating in the 34th Sanpo-En Winter Cultural Students Exchange Program. They will be leaving for Japan on Feb. 8 and will be back on Feb. 14.

"The purpose of the trip is to provide a teaching and learning experience for our students

to learn the Japanese culture. They are also our young ambassadors to represent and promote the island of Saipan and to strengthen the sister-city relation with Japan. They also have a chance to experience the cold weather and take part in winter activities such

as playing in the snow, skiing, etc.," said student cultural exchange program coordinator Yuki Kishimoto.

The students will be able to speak with the mayor of Nanttan, the governor and mayor of Kyoto, the mayor of Nagano, and other officials.

"We hope that the students will bring home what they learned and experienced in Japan to encourage their peers to participate in the program to share the cultures," said Kishimoto. "We also hope that the students can return the island-style hospitality to our guests when they visit Saipan." (Demalynn S. Pagarao)

# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 27

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
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### EDITORIAL

## The no free speech movement at Berkeley

The cancellation last week of a speech by right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos at the University of California at Berkeley was, according to a university spokesman, “not a proud night for this campus, the home of the free speech movement.”

That’s putting it mildly. Even if the cancellation was justified by concerns about public safety after an outbreak of violence and property destruction, the fact that Yiannopoulos was prevented from speaking to a willing audience of campus Republicans should make supporters of free speech shiver.

In a characteristically knee-jerk reaction to the events, President Trump tweeted: “If U.C. Berkeley does not allow free speech and practices violence on innocent people with a different point of view—NO FEDERAL FUNDS?”

That would be a ludicrous overreaction even if it were true that the university had been on the wrong side of the issue. But actually, UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks had steadfastly defended the right of the Republicans to invite Yiannopoulos to speak, rejecting a request by a group of professors that the Breitbart News writer’s appearance be canceled because he engaged in “hate speech” and, based on his appearance at another university, might harass or belittle individual students.

In responding to the professors, the chancellor’s office pointed out—correctly and courageously—that “the courts have made it very clear that there is no general exception to 1st Amendment protection for ‘hate’ speech or speech that is deemed to be discriminatory. Our Constitution does not permit the university to engage in prior restraint of a speaker out of fear that he might engage in even hateful verbal attacks.”

The university insists that it made elaborate preparations for protests. It canceled the speech only after what it called an “unprecedented” invasion of the campus by “more than 100 armed individuals clad all in black” who engaged in violent, destructive behavior. They hurled metal barricades, threw Molotov cocktails and smashed windows at the student union.

In his own self-serving response, Yiannopoulos wrote on Facebook: “One thing we do know for sure: the Left is absolutely terrified of free speech and will do literally anything to shut it down.” That’s a gross generalization: Many of Yiannopoulos’ critics object to his outrageous statements—such as his claim that feminism is a “cancer”—but wouldn’t deny his right to express them. It’s also true that one can protest at a speaker’s appearance without trying to shout him down.

Yet it’s also true that, on colleges campuses and elsewhere, some “progressive” voices do call for the stifling of speech they don’t approve of. A leaflet circulated at the Berkeley protest said Yiannopoulos has “no right to speak

See **BERKELEY** on Next Page

## How to help an immigrant who’s under attack

I don’t need to tell people I’m an immigrant: My accent does it for me. Over the years, when Americans would hear me speak, they’d ask about my origins and what I thought of the United States. But since Donald Trump took up residence in the White House, I’ve gotten a new line of questioning: What can we do to protect and help immigrants and refugees in our towns and schools?

Everyone knows an ACLU lawyer isn’t going to parachute down from the heavens every time a local thug eggs a car or screams at a woman in a hijab. For newcomers, the difference between dignity and humiliation, impotence and security is often an American who’s willing to get involved.

I was 9 when my family fled Soviet Ukraine. We lived as refugees in Austria before finally coming to the U.S. I was young enough to assimilate quickly but old enough to understand that even in the land of immigrants, immigrants are not always welcome.

Some people take out their fears and frustrations on foreigners because it’s easy: Any native-born American, no matter his actual circumstances, enjoys a tremendous power advantage over someone who can’t speak English and whose citizenship status is uncertain. But the moment another fluent English speaker, another unquestioned American, enters the equation to help, that imbalance vanishes.

The simplest course of action is the most effective: Ignore the attacker and address the immigrant. Literally stand with him or her. Introduce yourself but resist the temptation to ask “Where are you from?”—it’s a touchy question, especially now, with a travel ban whose future is far from clear. In my experience, the mere act of a friendly local engaging my family was all that was needed to make a tormentor slink away.

It surprises Americans that newcomers don’t simply call the authorities when someone intimidates them or spray paints a slur on a garage door. Americans are taught from birth to assert their rights; most wouldn’t hesitate to speak to a rude employee’s supervisor or call the cops. Immigrants and refugees are generally wired to do the opposite.

Chances are, they’ve escaped from a region where avoiding people wearing badges was a matter of survival. This mindset lingers: My parents—my father is an engineer, my mother was a psychiatrist in Ukraine and became a security guard in the U.S.—have been here for two and a half decades, but they’re still terrified of even the most innocuous encounter with the police.

Instead of easing such fears, landing in America tends to burden newcomers with an additional reason to avoid entanglements with the authorities: The need to preserve a fragile existence in this country.

This doesn’t just apply just to those who are in the U.S. illegally: No matter how they got here, most immigrants are acutely aware that they aren’t Einsteins; they aren’t prized entertainers or computer geniuses or vital to U.S. national security. When green card

By **LEV GOLINKIN**

Los Angeles Times

Lev Golinkin is the author of the memoir *A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



holders and Iraqi interpreters were detained last week, Americans understood what immigrants have long known: Unless you get citizenship, your stay can be jeopardized at any moment. The immigrant’s overwhelming priority is avoiding attention at all costs.

And the language barrier is crippling. The term “barrier” isn’t strong enough: When you don’t speak English, it’s as if you’ve suffered a debilitating stroke, except instead of being rushed to the hospital, you have to look for a job. What you value about yourself—your smarts, humor, honesty, eloquence—requires language, but it’s gone. You could be a poet in Arabic; in English, you’re an idiot. Worse, when you can’t communicate your thoughts to those around you, they can assume you don’t have any in the first place. You disappear; you’re a non-person.

If you want to help erase that non-person status, acknowledge immigrants as individuals with a life, a history, opinions—something other than the product of a godforsaken country whose chief export is helpless creatures. Along with introducing yourself, simple yes-no questions work wonders, considering that people can understand far more than they can express.

Lastly, please don’t be offended if you don’t get a thank you. Immigrants aren’t Disney princesses—being stuck in a humiliating, even terrifying situation that requires a stranger to intervene on your behalf isn’t an occasion for rejoicing.

I didn’t thank the young woman who gave me a jacket in a Vietnamese shelter because I couldn’t comprehend that someone would hand out free clothing with no strings attached. I didn’t thank the hotel owner who helped persuade the Austrian police to release my mother and sister who were detained for peddling trinkets because I was terrified beyond words. I didn’t thank every sponsor who welcomed us to America because after six months of drifting through the world as a refugee, I was sick of being a charity case.

I didn’t thank them, but I didn’t forget them. Twenty-six years have gone by, and the honks and angry stares, threats and ridicule have faded like an old scar. But I can still see the people who helped us, vividly, brightly. I can see their faces from the brief interactions that enabled me and my family to materialize out the ghostly existence of statelessness and feel human. You don’t forget the good ones.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Hapbla kafe

**G**i sagan kafe siha, lamegai na tautau-ta chumalegua' asuntun hatsadan sueddun man-ma' gas hegsu' I Deni'. Ilegña i unu na inipus na finaga' ga' gi empleau siha yan familian niha i siñku pot sientu na hatsada ya i man-sabiu ochenta pot sientu (80%).

Inepi ni otru na machansa ayu na hatsada pot masuponi na inosienti i publiku ni masusesedi. Lache!

Man-opi i otru na lastima sa' siha i man-sabiu ni fumatta na man-e' echochu' siha ahe' ti pot asuntun publiku na mangaige siha guihe na puestu.

Mattu gi na' mamahlau na laime kontra i publiku ni hagas masapet gi halum sisonyan te' ug na pinepble ni pinegan niha.

Kau para ta repite este ta' lu na babarias gi eleksion otru sakan?

**Sensian Katma:** 'An hu plantayu' mañge', sessu teña hu dandan man-suabe na piano 'sino gitala para una katma hinasog-hu duranten este na eksisiu.

Hana' pasifiku yan katma siñienteg-hu gi haf' para bai tugi'. Guaha siempre na unna'en maisa hau agradesimientu pot fitme yan antau disposision-mu gi un' sentitudu.

Guaha 'nai hu bisita i kantun tasi pot para bai' li' e i katman hanum entalu' chepchup unai esta' i rubentason. Sumen nama' aggem i katma na tasin sanhalum. Ha sediyu' lokue' manayuyot yan manhassu anchu gi hilu' katma yan trankilida.

Mauleg in' chagi esti na eksisiu. Ti mapot. Falag un' banda gi baranda sino sala ya un' huchum matamu. Fanayuyot bendision. Haguñ ginen guieñgm tuaduñ dispues sotta huyuñg adumididi' gi labiosmu. Chogue este dies biahe. Un' li' e siempre i difrensia 'na nina' mas katma siñientemu.

**Fañuchanan:** Deste chatagmag hu huñgog finattun chata'an. Mauleg sa' guaha dididi' mañglu'. Sigi hu usune muna' kefon-

hayan nobena-hu, diariu.

Mampos abarambau kinalamten enteru globus 'nai man-tinet-bos ginen sagan niha ni finu' Presidenti Trump. Ti tuñgu'un haf' para uma-ekspekta gi hagas relasion yan America ni onsi (11) na nasion giya Asia.

Dispues, klaru na ti umo' ositan si Trump para u adelanta fineni-na linala' tautauña antes de tautau hiyuñg. Sigi pa' gu Japon ha uga i asuntu pot para una' ma' aggem America gi todú asuntu ni hagas simiha chomogue.

Iya China esta sinañgane as Trump na u fan respeta gi lugat otru nasion piot ayu na tasi 'nai manhatsa fasilidat militat ni inyun iya Fililpinas yan Japon.

Mas si Trump para una' e fondu i militat gi preparasion madi-fendin iya America. Haf' signifikasioña este yan i mahahatsa na fasilidat militat giya Guam? Umakonsigi pat uma-utot faborapble gi usun modetnu na atmas gera siha?

Enteru elmundu ha lachai muna' fan salamañka gi hagas pinayun niha. Likidu haf' ha petsisigi sa' humalum ya guiya umarepuha i hagas manmaletki siha na asuntun gi manmofona na presidenti.

Ai, mas fotte pineduñg uchan na esta na' fugu. Lau naturat na tiempun fañuchanan.

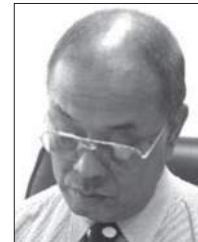
**Ekun Mapagahes:** Guaha 'an chatagmag 'nai huhuñgog eku gi fondun talañga-hu. Ti siña hu pega kalulot-hu haf' signifikasioña ayu na eku. Huna' katman ñaihon-yu' para bai' li' e kau u birague'. Silensiu.

Mientras tantu, mafattu gi hinasog-hu kau guaha fotte na ira para u fatoiue hit? Kau linau mamamaila' pot gaige iya Marianas gi halum mafanana' an Pacific Ring of Fire (ridondun guafe)?

Kasi dos tres biahe esta iya Indonesia sinaulag fotte na linau. Iya Tokyo mananañga un' dañkulu lokue' na linau. Mapredikta mas linau gi enteru elmundu as Nostradamus. Esta sigi man-masusedi.

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

Hagas ta payuni man-fotti na pagyu ni asolas sumablasus hit. Man-huyuñg hit gi sigiente dia ya tatutuhun rinempesa. Trabiha tihu lili' e destrosiun linau mina' gai chinatsaga-yu'. Yangin fotte, pues mauleg na destrosiu para u pega kumu taduñg na lastru. Pude tiha fatoiue hit este na ira.

**Bokan Natibu:** Sessu antes gi gualu' Tagpochau man-mañgoni' ham man-dañkulun umañg ni man-mantika. Unu nahuñg na abuni para sopas hinegsa'. Dispues, maliñgu i hagas abundansia guihe na lugat. Hu soda na todú kinanu' ni hilitai. Ai na destrosiu!

Esta hu usuni malag Laulau para bai' fan aligau umañg. Bula magahet guihe lau ti parehu yan manmantika na umañg iya Tagpochau. Hmmm! Adahe 'an esta ha luñu' gue' i mantikan abuni ya un' tutuhun kamahat. I mas mañge' na klasen matuhog!

I pañglau appenas lokue' pot man-ma-estotba gi hagas lugat niha piot giya Puntan Muchot. Kontodu lichan Tanapag menus esta pañglau. Gigon lumattalum hau gi fina' sisonyan, un' hatme lugat tautau. Guaha fina' programan mamogsai pañglau yan umañg? Megai man-finaburesi nu esti na totchen popble.

## Gorsuch is what we've been waiting for

**A** judge who likes every outcome he reaches is very likely a bad judge."

This is how Judge Neil Gorsuch introduced himself and his philosophy to the American people on Tuesday evening, moments after having been nominated to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created by Antonin Scalia's death.

The statement does not rise to the level of some of the more eloquent pronouncements of Supreme Court justices or nominees.

It doesn't, for instance, have the power of Justice Marshall's defense of the First Amendment: "Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men's minds."

It doesn't have the chilling, stirring quality of Justice Douglas' allusion to the Fifth Amendment: "The critical point is that the Constitution places the right of silence beyond the reach of government."

It is not self-evident yet achingly beautiful in its simplicity, like Justice Jackson's observation that, "Civil government cannot let any group ride roughshod over others simply because their consciences tell them to do so," which, by the way, is a thought the protestors in Berkeley might want to file away in their iPhones for future reference.

But even though the nominee's comment does not reach the lofty heights of these earlier examples of judicial eloquence, it is extremely powerful—for one crucial reason: It is indicative of a man who possesses professional humility and a recognition of the nature of his role on the bench.

In saying that a good judge is someone who is forced to decide matters in ways that might offend his own priorities and violate his values, Gorsuch was confirming that he would not substitute his ego and his sense of justice for the objective mandate of the law as written.

Of course, that freaked out the kind of person who thinks that a

judge is simply a pedigreed soothsayer who looks into the legislative crystal ball and attempts to figure out what the lawmakers actually meant when they put words to paper.

For years, many of us have watched in horror as the Constitution has been treated like a dish towel, something to be dunked into the opaque and soapy waters of intent and then wring out to produce a puddle of socially significant precedent. We dunked the Bill of Rights into that progressive bucket and squeezed out *Roe v. Wade*, a decision that has absolutely no basis in any of the amendments Justice Blackmun dishonestly cited as cover for his ends-oriented holding. We dunked it again and squeezed out *Citizens United*, creating a slick puddle on which lobbyists and moneyed cronies can slide their way into the affections of the Congress and the White House. And we dunked it yet again and wrung out a precedent that discovered a right to same sex marriage, much to the horror of the man whose death brought Gorsuch to the steps of the high court.

Hopefully, this nominee will be a bulwark against the ridiculous trend toward a living document, one which has no fixed principles or polestar but simply serves as a mirror for a society that keeps changing its reflection.

But, you say, that's a very good thing. We must change or we die. We cannot be stagnant, and evolution is the thing that keeps us moving forward. The dinosaurs have departed.

That is, of course, true. But it is also transparently dishonest to deny that liberals tend to impose their own sense of progress on the static, foundational principles in the well-calibrated document bequeathed to us by Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison and the rest. Blackmun was not compelled by the Fourth Amendment and the penumbras to legalize abortion. He wanted to make the procedure legal and dug deeply into the document to figure out a plausible way to make it stick. He failed miserably, as most constitutional scholars will attest.

Anthony Kennedy was not visited by the Ghost of Earl Warren in his sleep and told that he must, must find a way to legalize gay unions because the equal protection and due process clauses demanded immediate action. He just wanted to please a very large and very vocal group of supplicants before the court, and so he wrote an opinion that mixed Harlequin romance with a view that shattered millennia of social tradition.

John Roberts didn't have an epiphany one day while eating his bran, which is very good for curing bad digestion, and realize that the Constitution required us to institute nationalized health care. He was presented with a challenge to a law that some peo-

**By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**

Philadelphia Daily News



*Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

ple liked and some people hated and he didn't want to get into the middle of a civil war so he made up that whole really grim fairy tale about it being a tax. And voila, Obamacare was saved (for the time being).

This happens all the time and it happened when conservatives caved to lobbyists and gave corporations a soul. It happened most despicably when seven white men found that the Constitution followed the strange mathematics that transformed a black man into three-fifths of a human being, which was also a sad premonition of what the court would do to an unborn child a century later.

All of this playing around with the words is bad for constitutional business. And that is why President Donald Trump's choice of Gorsuch is so breathtakingly good. Putting aside the fact that the GOP should hang its collective head in shame for blocking the vote on Merrick Garland, an act that justifies anger and opposition from Democrats, this nominee will restore a balance to the court that has been missing since the untimely death of Scalia. We need humble men and women on the court who understand their proper role as arbiters and interpreters, not creators and conjurers. Gorsuch has a history as an originalist, which means he looks to the intent of the founders, and as a textualist, which means he looks to the common sense meaning of words.

Even though he clerked for Anthony Kennedy, who he deeply admires, he won't be digging up rights that don't exist and describing them in breathless purple prose. Gorsuch has a record of protecting religious freedom against government encroachment (to the delight of the plaintiffs in *Hobby Lobby*), is a strong supporter of the rights of both gun owners and criminal defendants, and doesn't believe that the administrative beast created by our federal agencies must be continuously fed. Most of all, he mirrors Scalia in the most important way of all: humility before the Constitution, and an unwillingness to substitute his personal preferences for precedent.

This was the home run Trump promised and, this week at least, desperately needed.

### BERKELEY

From Page 10






at Cal or anywhere else" because he's a "tool of Trump's possessive fascist government."

This is just the latest variation on the age-old argument of the censor that "error has no rights," or, put another way, that one only has a right to free speech if one is speaking the "truth." It's an insidious notion that needs to be opposed in every generation.

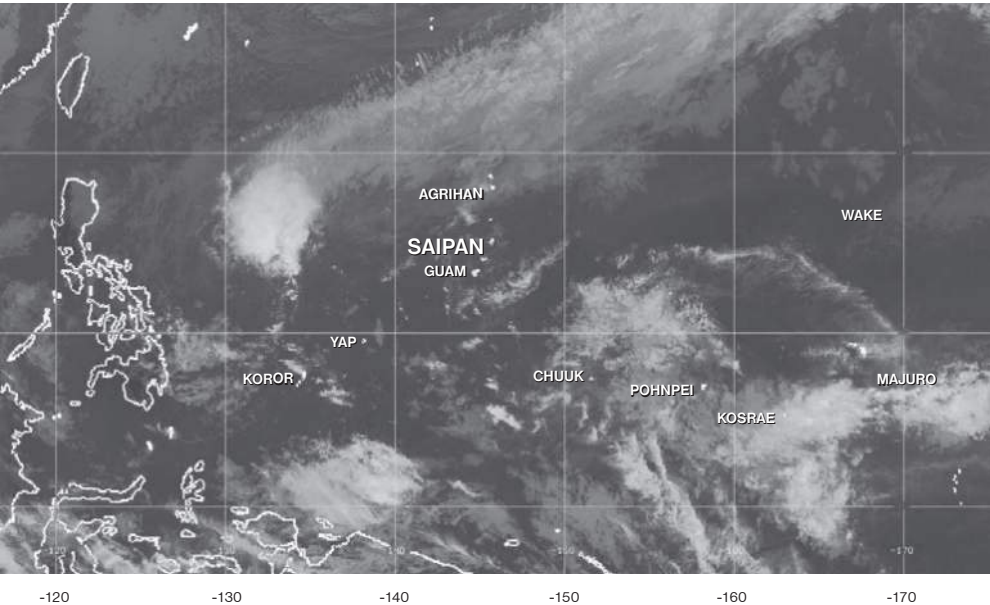
(c)2017 Los Angeles Times

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 7:59 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weak disturbance will continue to pass south of Guam. After this, the subtropical ridge will remain in the area, however it is expected to be a dirty ridge so the clouds will not clear up as much as one might expect for being under a ridge. Weather will improve, and winds slack off however as usual when a ridge is the dominant feature. Near the end of the forecast period, a shear line comes near the forecast zones. This will increase the winds to near small craft advisory criteria. Coupled with a north-northwest swell event, this could also cause seas to meet small craft advisory criteria and could likely trigger a high surf advisory as well. Mariners and beachgoers should remain aware of the upcoming changing conditions.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	64° / 52°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 62°
London	Cloudy	37° / 30°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 56°
Manila	Showers	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 67°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 36°
Osaka	Rain	45° / 36°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 28°
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 34°
Rome	Cloudy	57° / 46°
Salem	Cloudy	74° / 52°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	43° / 32°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	30° / 16°
Tokyo	Showers	46° / 36°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 42°

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:31 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.79
11:41 AM	LOW TIDE		1.16
4:50 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.96
-	-		-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:53 AM	3:39 PM
Thursday	-	4:50 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	-	5:45 AM	5:37 PM
Saturday	-	6:36 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	-	7:23 AM	7:29 PM

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily

6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
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SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

# MYPros meet-up sees 50-plus new members

On Jan. 25, the first MYPros membership meet-up of the year saw over 50 new members as well as business and sponsor support.

The event was held at Aqua Resort Club and the guest speaker, Pulitzer Prize nominee Nancy Borowick, gave a photo presentation of her work building a well in Africa as well as her award-nominated series, *The Family Imprint*.

Borowick, originally from New York, made the move to Guam last year and plans to explore the island through her art and is already planning some collaborations. In her presentation, Borowick spoke of how important it is to always meet people and make connections.

Throughout the evening, the newly minted MYPros board was able to meet and greet new members as well as talk about the exciting new things MYPros will be up to this year such as the Mentor a MYPros event in March.

Matthew Deleon Guerrero, the 2017 president, welcomed the new members and commented on partnership and growth of the young professionals on Saipan.

"It was a really awesome start to 2017 for MYPros! We love seeing and greeting all the new members to our association," said MyPros vice president Nola Hix. "We really want to thank the mentors that also attended our event, Alex Sablan of TanHoldings along with Frances Demapan of Joeten Motors and Chailang Palacios."

The evening also included MYPros member Ajani Burrell speaking about his upcoming book project that focuses on culture in the Marianas as well as new board member Frank "The Crank"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Jan. 25, the first MYPros membership meet-up of the year saw over 50 new members.



Camacho sharing his startup success in online marketing and Web design.

"It was a wonderful evening and I'm humbled and excited to be the 2017 president," said Deleon Guerrero. "I can't wait to get started on the year's projects, starting with the 'Mentor a MYPro' event. We really want to see all the well-respected business people [on] Saipan at this event. Our MY-

Pros can really benefit from their experience and wisdom."

Besides Deleon Guerrero and Hix, the 2017 MYPros board members are Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, secretary; Christian Delos Santos, treasurer; Sheila Babauta, director; Frannie Demapan, director; and Camacho, director.

Sponsors included MAR-PAC Distributors, Kanoa Resort, Triple J Saipan, Pacifica

Insurance, IT&E, Joeten Enterprises, TRIBE Marianas, and Mike Ronesia Photography.

MYPros is a committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce composed of young leaders. For more information about upcoming MYPros events, check the Facebook page at Facebook.com/mypros670 or email mypros.670@gmail.com. (**MyPROS**)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Jan. 25, the first MYPros membership meet-up of the year featured Pulitzer Prize nominee Nancy Borowick and she gave a photo presentation of her work.

## Underwood participates in Japan Foreign Ministry program

This month, University of Guam president Dr. Robert Underwood will be visiting Japan to participate in a Japan Foreign Ministry Invitation Program. The purpose of the program is to provide insight and a better understanding of Japan's culture, society, economy, and government policies. The trip is sponsored by the Japan government.

Underwood is the first individual from Guam to be offered and accepted into this prestigious program that has included former U.S. Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs under President George W. Bush Stephen Hadley and former

U.S. senator and minority leader Tom Daschle.

"I'm honored to have received this invitation from the Japan government," said Underwood. "This visit is a great opportunity for me

and a chance for the university to network and make connections with potential collaborators in government, business, and academia in Japan."

During the visit, Underwood will receive briefings from the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and U.S. Embassy on the current situation in the region and relations



Underwood

with the United States. He will also be meeting with members of the Japanese Diet (parliament), including Hakuban Shimomura, former Education minister.

Underwood will also be visiting Okayama University, with which UOG has a long-standing relationship. He has also scheduled a meeting with Dr. Jun Murai, a leader in Japanese Information Technology and known as "the father of Japan's internet."

The trip will also include visits to historical sites in Tokyo and Hiroshima. (**UOG**)

Business

Tech firms take stand against travel ban, risking backlash

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Through a Super Bowl ad, public statements and court filings, Silicon Valley’s biggest companies are taking a strong stand against President Donald Trump’s travel ban, saying high tech needs immigrants’ creativity and energy to stay competitive.

Although the companies are risking a backlash from customers who side with Trump, they say the pushback is necessary for an industry dependent on thousands of highly skilled foreign workers.

About 58 percent of the engineers and other high-skill employees in Silicon Valley were born outside the U.S., according to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, an industry trade group.

“Immigration and innovation go hand in hand,” said Carl Guardino, the group’s CEO. “This cuts so deeply into the bone and marrow of what fuels the innovation economy that very few CEOs feel the luxury of sitting on the sidelines. So people are going to stand up and speak up.”

The tech industry contends there aren’t enough Americans with the specialized skills these companies need. Though critics contend that companies favor immigrants because they can pay them less, tech companies argue that the ban would pressure them to move some operations abroad.

“A lot of these companies will really struggle if all of a sudden we turn off the spigot,” said Greg Morrisett, dean of computing and information sciences at Cornell University.



**AP**  
Isahaq Ahmed Rabi, left, smiles as he stands with his wife during a news conference shortly after Rabi’s arrival Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at Seattle Tacoma International Airport, in SeaTac, Wash.

In a court filing Sunday against the ban, 97 companies, including such major tech players as Google, Apple, Microsoft, eBay, Netflix, Facebook and Twitter, also spoke of the entrepreneurial spirit of “people who choose to leave everything that is familiar and journey to an unknown land to make a new life.”

Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella both came from India. Google co-founder Sergey Brin is a Russian refugee who moved to the U.S. as a boy. The father of Apple’s late co-founder, Steve Jobs, immigrated from Syria.

Tech worker Ehsaan Taeb, 28, said his whole family is in Iran and knowing his parents won’t be able to visit him has added stress to his life. But seeing his company and other tech companies taking a stand against the ban has heartened him, he said.

“When you see your employer and other companies make that kind of effort, that makes me feel very supported and in a community that’s thoughtful and caring,” said Taeb, who works in support at Checkr, a software company that provides background checks for businesses.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group estimates that half the companies in the region were co-founded by an immigrant or are now led by a CEO from outside the U.S.

Why 97 companies are opposing Trump’s travel ban

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Apple, Google and more than 90 other companies are pushing back in court against President Donald Trump’s temporary travel ban, calling it unconstitutional, un-American and bad for the economy.

The companies filed briefs Sunday to back lawsuits from Washington state and Minnesota fighting Trump’s travel ban. The ban keeps refugees and travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S.

Trump has said his Jan. 27 executive order is necessary to prevent “radical Islamic terrorists” from coming to the U.S. The White House did not respond to a request for comment Monday.

The 97 companies are mostly in the technology industry and include social media companies Facebook Inc. and Twitter Inc. Non-tech companies participating include yogurt maker Chobani and jeans-seller Levi Strauss & Co.

Here’s some of the reasons why they oppose the travel ban:

IT HURTS THE U.S. ECONOMY

Immigrants will avoid the U.S. and want to work in other countries where “their immigration status will not suddenly be revoked,” the companies argued. They also said the ban makes it more likely that big companies will move employees overseas or make investments outside the U.S.

“Ultimately, American workers and the economy will suffer as a result,” the companies said.

IT HURTS THEIR BUSINESS

The travel ban makes it harder for companies to “recruit, hire, and retain some of the world’s best employees,” according to the court filings.

The companies also say the ban disrupts day-to-day operations by making it more difficult to send employees to meetings and conferences abroad because of uncertainty over whether they can return.

IT’S UNLAWFUL

The companies said the executive order violates immigration laws and the U.S.

Constitution because it bans people from entering the country based on their place of origin.

IT WILL HURT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

According to the court documents, 200 of the 500 companies on Fortune magazine’s list of largest U.S. companies were founded by immigrants, or children of immigrants. That includes iPhone maker Apple and search company Google, both of which joined the court filing.

“The energy they bring to America is a key reason why the American economy has been the greatest engine of prosperity and innovation in history,” the companies said.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The fight against fake news is not just being waged by Google, Facebook and big media companies.

They are joined in the battle by academics and data scientists who started work on the subject years before bogus news stories were suspected of helping sway the 2016 presidential election.

Their work has yielded tools that help track how “alternative facts” spread, and others that let you identify fake stories or block them altogether.

Fighting fake news isn’t just up to Facebook and Google

Some of these are still baby steps, but they’re a key, if largely unsung, part of the effort to tamp down the spread of fake stories.

And the researchers were there first.

For Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia, a research scientist at Indiana University, the phenomenon first caught his eye during the Ebola crisis in 2014.

“We started seeing a lot of content that was spreading,

completely fabricated claims about importations of Ebola, (such as) entire towns in Texas being under quarantine,” he says. “What caught our attention was that these claims were created using names of publications that sounded like newspapers. And they were getting a lot of traction on social media.”

So he helped create a tool tracking how unsubstantiated claims spread online.

DECIPHERING TWITTER RUMORS

Tanushree Mitra, a doctoral student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, began a project three years ago to see how misinformation and fake news spread through Twitter. At the time, she says, “companies like Facebook and Twitter were not paying much attention.”

What attracted her to the project was the prevalence of

fake news that spread online following natural disasters such as Superstorm Sandy in 2012. When she saw that people were sharing a lot of incorrect or misleading information about the events, Mitra decided to track both big stories and smaller rumors with the goal of creating an app that could help ordinary people sort fact from fiction so they can make decisions that could be crucial to their wellbeing.

Mitra and her fellow researchers scanned 66 million tweets linked to nearly 1,400 real-world events to identify words and phrases linked to perceived levels of credibility. Looking at tweets surrounding news events in 2014 and 2015—including the Ebola crisis, the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris and the death of Eric Garner in a confrontation of police officers in New York City—they asked people to judge tweets based on how credible they thought the posts were.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

<b>DOW</b> 20,052.42 -19.04 -0.09%	<b>S&amp;P</b> 2,292.56 -4.86 -0.21%	<b>NASDAQ</b> 5,663.55 -3.21 -0.06%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.3031	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7575	Russian Ruble	58.89
British Pound	0.8022	Indian Rupee	67.34	Singapore Dollar	1.4136
Canadian Dollar	1.3106	Japanese Yen	111.831	South Korean Won	1142.21
Chinese Yuan	6.8679	Malaysian Ringgit	4.4335	Swiss Franc	0.994
Euro	0.9334	New Zealand Dollar	1.3584	Taiwan Dollar	30.99
		Philippine Peso	49.64	Thailand Baht	35.01

# Nation

## Appeals court weighs Trump ban as travelers arrive to tears

WASHINGTON (AP)—The fierce battle over President Donald Trump's travel and refugee ban edged up the judicial escalator Monday, headed for a possible final face-off at the Supreme Court. Travelers, temporarily unbound, tearfully reunited with loved ones at U.S. airports.

The Justice Department filed a new defense of Trump's ban on travelers from seven predominantly Muslim nations as a federal appeals court weighs whether to restore the administration's executive order. The lawyers said the travel ban was a "lawful exercise" of the president's authority to protect national security and said a judge's order that put the policy on hold should be overruled.

The filing with the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was the latest salvo in a high-stakes legal fight surrounding Trump's order, which was halted Friday by a federal judge in Washington state.

A randomly selected panel of appellate judges is to hear arguments Tuesday.

The appeals court earlier refused to immediately reinstate the ban, and lawyers for Washington and Minnesota—two states challenging it—argued anew Monday that any resumption would "unleash chaos again," separating families and stranding



Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson arrives to talk to reporters, following a hearing in federal court Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in Seattle. AP

university students.

The Justice Department responded that the president has clear authority to "suspend the entry of any class of aliens" to the U.S. in the name of national security. It said the travel ban, which temporarily suspends the country's refugee program and immigration from seven countries with terrorism concerns, was intended "to permit

an orderly review and revision of screening procedures to ensure that adequate standards are in place to protect against terrorist attacks."

The challengers of the ban, the Justice Department wrote, were asking "courts to take the extraordinary step of second-guessing a formal national security judgment made by the president himself pursuant to broad grants

of statutory authority."

Whatever the appeals court decides, either side could ask the Supreme Court to intervene.

It could prove difficult, though, to find the necessary five votes at the high court to undo a lower court order; the Supreme Court has been at less than full strength since Justice Antonin Scalia's death a year ago. The last immigra-

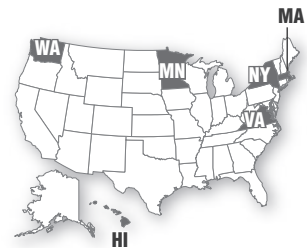
tion case that reached the justices ended in a 4-4 tie.

The president's executive order has faced legal uncertainty ever since Friday's ruling by U.S. District Judge James Robart, which challenged both Trump's authority and his ability to fulfill a campaign promise.

The State Department quickly said people from the seven countries—Iran, Iraq,

### States suing over executive order

Six states have joined lawsuits challenging President Trump's executive order barring immigration from seven countries, as of Feb. 6.



Source: Federal court documents  
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen—with valid visas could travel to the U.S. The Homeland Security Department said it was no longer directing airlines to prevent affected visa holders from boarding U.S.-bound planes.

On Monday in Colorado, a graduate student who had traveled to Libya with her 1-year-old son to visit her sick mother and attend her father's funeral was back in Fort Collins after having been stopped in Jordan on her return trip. She was welcomed with flowers and balloons by her husband and other children.

Two Yemeni brothers whose family has sued over the travel ban, and who'd been turned away in the chaotic opening days of the order, arrived at Dulles International Airport in Virginia, where they were greeted by their father.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Transients plead guilty in killings of tourist, yoga teacher

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Two transients pleaded guilty Monday to murder in the deaths of a Canadian tourist who was camping in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park during a music festival and a yoga teacher walking his dog on a popular hiking trail. As part of plea deals, Morrison Lampley, 24, agreed to a 100-year prison sentence and Lila Scott Alligood, 19, accepted a 50-year term after each pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder, prosecutors said. A sentencing date has not yet been set. Lampley will receive the harsher sentence because he pulled the trigger in both of the 2015 killings that occurred just two days apart, the Marin County district attorney's office said. Both defendants had faced a possible sentence of life in prison without parole. But under the plea deal, they can apply for parole after serving roughly 85 percent of their sentences. Both agreed not to appeal their convictions.

#### 79-year-old doctor on trial in \$200M health fraud scheme

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—To prosecutors, Bernard Greenspan saw dollar signs when a blood-testing lab company came to his office seeking referrals several years ago, and he reaped a \$200,000 windfall in illegal bribes. Greenspan's attorney tells a different story, of an "old-school, solo family practitioner" still practicing while pushing 80 whose transactions were legitimate but who wound up in the wrong place at the wrong time - in the middle of an investigation into a \$200 million health care fraud scheme. More than 40 people, including more than two dozen doctors in New York and New Jersey, have pleaded guilty over the last four years in the scheme. This week, the government's evidence will be tested for the first time when the 79-year-old Greenspan, who faces maximum penalties that would mean spending the rest of his life in prison, goes on trial. Opening statements are scheduled for Tuesday in federal court.

#### MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump on Monday accused the media of deliberately minimizing coverage of the threat posed by the Islamic State group, saying news outlets "have their reasons" for not reporting what he described as a "genocide" underway at the hands of the group.

The president did not immediately offer evidence to support his claim, made during the new commander in chief's first visit to the headquarters for U.S. Central Command. Later, the White House released a list of 78 attacks it described as "executed or inspired by" the Islamic State group since September 2014. The White House said "most" on the list did not get sufficient media attention, although it did not explain how it defined the term. Some of the incidents on the list received widespread attention and deep reporting.

"You've seen what happened in Paris and Nice. All over Europe it's happening,

It's gotten to a point where it's not even being reported," Trump told a group of military leaders and troops during the visit. "And in many cases, the very, very dishonest press doesn't want to report it. They have their reasons and you understand that."

Trump, who has made relentless criticism of the media a hallmark of his presidency, did not explain why he thinks news outlets minimize attention on such attacks.

Later, White House spokesman Sean Spicer tried to tone down the president's remarks, saying it was a question of balance: "Like a protest gets blown out of the water, and yet an attack or a foiled attack doesn't necessarily get the same coverage."

The list released late Monday included incidents like a truck massacre in Nice, France, that killed dozens and received widespread attention, as well as less high-profile incidents in which nobody was killed.

The AP could not verify that

each of the incidents had connections to the Islamic State group. The list appeared to be hastily assembled, including several misspellings of the word "attacker."

Trump also used the visit to CENTCOM to defend his immigration and refugee restrictions and reaffirm his support for NATO.

He laced his speech with references to homeland security amid a court battle over his travel ban on people from seven majority-Muslim countries. He did not directly mention the case now before a federal appeals court after a lower court temporarily suspended the ban.

"We need strong programs" so that "people that love us and want to love our country and will end up loving our country are allowed in" and those who "want to destroy us and destroy our country" are kept out, Trump said.

"Freedom, security and justice will prevail," Trump added. "We will defeat radical Islamic terrorism and we

will not allow it to take root in our country. We're not going to allow it."

Trump touched upon various alliances in his remarks, noting, "we strongly support NATO."

He spoke Sunday with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. A White House statement said the two "discussed how to encourage all NATO allies to meet their defense spending commitments," and also talked about the crisis in Ukraine and security challenges facing NATO countries.

Trump once dismissed the trans-Atlantic military alliance as "obsolete," and said he would decide whether to protect NATO countries against Russian aggression based on whether those countries "have fulfilled their obligations to us."

Speaking as commander in chief, Trump repeated his promises to defeat "radical Islamic terrorists" but provided no specifics on any policy changes he wants in the fight against the Islamic State.

# Asia

## UN: 25-percent increase in Afghan children killed in 2016

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—The number of children killed in Afghanistan's conflict rose by 25 percent in 2016, according to the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan.

The 2016 Annual Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan, released on Monday, documents an overall 3-percent rise in civilian casualties—both deaths and injuries—from the previous year.

The United Nations Assis-

tance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) attributed the disproportionate spike in child casualties in 2016 mainly to a 66-percent increase in casualties from left-over or discarded munitions. The report states that 923 children in Afghanistan were killed in 2016, a 25-percent increase from the previous year. The number of children injured rose by about 23 percent. Overall it was the highest number of casualties among children ever recorded in a

single year by UNAMA.

"Conflict-related violence exacted a heavy toll on Afghanistan in 2016, with an overall deterioration in civilian protection and the highest-total civilian casualties recorded since 2009, when UNAMA began systematic documentation of civilian casualties," the report stated.

It says that between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2016, the mission documented 11,418 civilian casualties—3,498 deaths and 7,920 wounded.

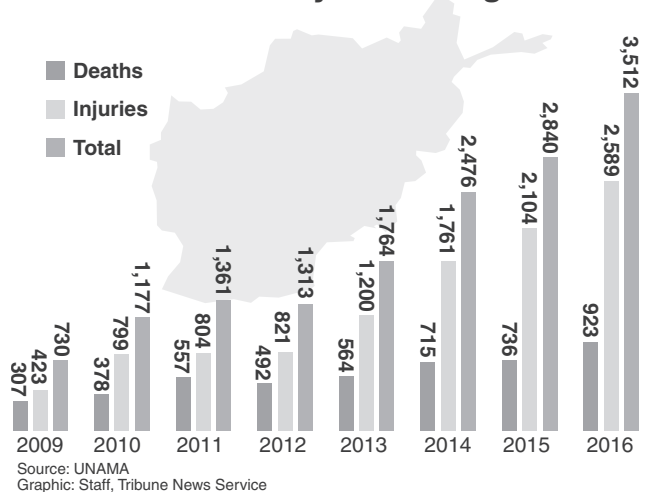
That marked a 2-percent decrease in civilian deaths and a 6-percent increase in civilians wounded, amounting to an overall 3-percent increase in casualties compared to 2015.

"This appalling conflict destroys lives and tears communities apart in every corner of Afghanistan," the report quoted Tadamichi Yamamoto, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, as saying. "Real

protection of civilians requires commitment and demonstrated concrete actions to protect civilians from harm

and for parties to the conflict to ensure accountability for indiscriminate and deliberate acts of civilian harm."

### Child deaths and injuries in Afghanistan



Danielle Bell, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, UNAMA, Human Rights Director holds a copy of the U.N. 2016 Annual Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan, during a press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Feb. 6, 2017.

## PH resumes assaults on rebels after talks scrapped

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine troops have resumed assaults against communist rebels, killing at least one guerrilla, after President Rodrigo Duterte scrapped peace talks with the insurgents, military officials said Monday.

Duterte had lifted the government's six-month-old cease-fire Friday and the next day discarded the talks being brokered by Norway. Those moves came after the Marxist guerrillas abandoned their own truce and killed six soldiers and kidnapped two others in new flare-ups in the 48-year insurgency.

The government and the rebels separately declared cease-fires last year to foster the peace talks, which progressed steadily for months before rapidly deteriorating in recent weeks.

On Monday, rebel adviser Luis Jalandoni accused the military of violating the government's cease-fire by de-

ploying troops in 500 villages, occupying village halls and schools, and continuing surveillance operations that he said inevitably led to clashes.

The guerrillas want to continue with talks set for Feb. 22-25 in Europe to negotiate a possible joint cease-fire agreement, Jalandoni said, adding the government has not issued the formal notice required to terminate the talks.

"We're saying the peace talks are still possible in the absence of a cease-fire," Jalandoni told radio DZMM by telephone from Europe.

Troops have resumed combat operations after Duterte lifted the cease-fire, military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said. The operations were in response to complaints from villagers of rebel extortion and efforts to rescue the kidnapped soldiers, he said.

Army troops clashed with about 20 New People's Army

guerrillas Sunday in Occidental Mindoro province south of Manila, killing one rebel, and on Saturday, troops and policemen arrested a rebel couple in Misamis Occidental province in the south for a multiple attempted murder case, the military said. At least four other combat operations occurred elsewhere.

In Compostela Valley province in the south, guerrillas were suspected of setting ablaze a banana plantation packing warehouse in Pantukan town late Sunday, military officials said, and a rebel consultant, Ariel Arbitrario, was taken into custody for questioning by troops Monday at a checkpoint in southern Davao city, Duterte's hometown.

Duterte called the insurgents terrorists for their brutal attacks on troops and threatened to re-arrest several rebel leaders who were temporarily freed to join the peace talks.

Jalandoni, however, said the 17 freed rebels are protected by a 1995 agreement under which the government agreed to grant them immunity from arrest while serving as peace talks consultants. All have returned to the Philippines after joining a recent round of talks in Rome and should not be arrested, he said.

Duterte has said he may reconsider his decision if there was a compelling reason, but he did not elaborate.

The setback in the talks is the latest reality check for Duterte, whose signature crackdown on illegal drugs has been tainted by an extortion scandal involving police and alleged extrajudicial killings. He has said he would use the military to enforce anti-drug laws instead of police, adding to the pressure on forces already fighting communist rebels and a Muslim insurgency in the south.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Afghan official: Avalanches in Afghanistan kill at least 119

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Avalanches in Afghanistan triggered by heavy snowfall across the country have killed at least 119 people in recent days, officials said on Monday. Wais Ahmad Barmak, the state minister for disaster management and humanitarian affairs, said that at least 89 people have been injured and 190 homes destroyed by avalanches in multiple provinces. Those figures were expected to rise as rescue teams made their way through snow-blocked roads to afflicted areas. Many of the most recent fatalities come from Nuristan province, near the Pakistani border, where two villages were buried in snow. Barmak's spokesman Omer Mohammadi said rescue teams have so far recovered 48 bodies from those villages and that more than 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of farmland have been destroyed. Mohammadi said it would take some time to establish a clear picture of the full extent of the damage.

#### Human Rights Watch wants alleged Myanmar abuses investigated

**YANGON, Myanmar (AP)**—A human rights group urged Myanmar's government on Monday to back an independent international investigation into alleged abuses by security forces against members of the Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority, including the reported systematic use of sexual violence. U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said in a statement that soldiers and Border Guard Police took part

in rape, gang rape, invasive body searches and sexual assaults while conducting counter-insurgency operations in the western state of Rakhine from October through mid-December. The estimated 1 million Rohingya face official and social discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, also known as Burma. Most do not have citizenship and are regarded as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even when their families have lived in Myanmar for generations. Communal violence in 2012 forced many to flee their homes, and more than 100,000 still live in squalid refugee camps.

#### New Zealand leader has 'sensible, polite' talk with Trump

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—New Zealand's Prime Minister Bill English said Tuesday he told President Donald Trump during a phone call that he disagreed with his travel and refugee ban but that the conversation remained amicable. Last week Trump had a testy exchange with Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull over a deal Australia reached with the Obama administration to resettle refugees in the U.S. Trump later tweeted that the deal was "dumb." By contrast, English told Radio New Zealand that his 15-minute call with Trump on Monday was a "sensible, polite discussion" that affirmed the good relationship between the countries. English said he told Trump he disagreed with the contested travel ban but didn't berate him over it. "I'm not there to scold him, although a lot of people might like us to do that," English said.

# World

## Report: At least 13K hanged in Syrian prison since 2011

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Syrian authorities have killed at least 13,000 people since the start of the 2011 uprising in mass hangings at a prison north of Damascus known to detainees as “the slaughterhouse,” Amnesty International said in a report Tuesday.

It covers the period from 2011 to 2015, when Amnesty said 20-50 people were hanged each week at Saydnaya Prison in killings authorized by senior Syrian officials, including deputies of President Bashar Assad, and carried out by military police.

The report referred to the killings as a “calculated campaign of extrajudicial execution.”

Amnesty has recorded at least 35 different methods of torture in Syria since the late 1980s, practices that only increased since 2011, said Lynn Maalouf, deputy director for research at Amnesty’s regional office in Beirut.

Other rights groups have found evidence of massive torture leading to death in Syrian detention facilities. In a report last year, Amnesty found that more than 17,000 people have died of torture and ill-treatment in custody across Syria since 2011, an average rate of more than 300 deaths a month.

Those figures are comparable to battlefield deaths in Aleppo, one of the fiercest war zones in Syria, where 21,000



AP  
Lynn Maalouf, deputy director of research at Amnesty International Middle East and North Africa, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Beirut, Lebanon, Monday, Feb. 6, 2017.

were killed in the province since 2011.

“The horrors depicted in this report reveal a hidden, monstrous campaign, authorized at the highest levels of the Syrian government, aimed at crushing any form of dissent within the Syrian population,” Maalouf said.

While the most recent data is from 2015, Maalouf said there is no reason to believe the practice has stopped since then, with thousands more

probably killed.

“These executions take place after a sham trial that lasts over a minute or two minutes, but they are authorized by the highest levels of authority,” including the Grand Mufti, a top religious authority in Syria, and the defense minister, she said.

Syrian government officials rarely comment on allegations of torture and mass killings. In the past, they have denied reports of massacres docu-

mented by international human rights groups, describing them as propaganda.

The chilling accounts in Tuesday’s report came from interviews with 31 former detainees and over 50 other officials and experts, including former guards and judges.

According to the findings, detainees were told they would be transferred to civilian detention centers but were taken instead to another building in the facility and hanged.

“They walked in the ‘train,’ so they had their heads down and were trying to catch the shirt of the person in front of them. The first time I saw them, I was horrified. They were being taken to the slaughterhouse,” Hamid, a former detainee, told Amnesty.

Another former detainee, Omar Alshogre, told The Associated Press the guards would come to his cell, sometimes three times a week, and call out detainees by name.

Alshogre said a torture session would begin before midnight in nearby chambers that he could hear.

“Then the sound would stop, and we would hear a big vehicle come and take them away,” said Alshogre, who spent nine months in Saydnaya. Now 21, he lives in Sweden.

Speaking in an interview from Stockholm via Skype,

Alshogre described how he was forced to keep his eyes closed and his back to the guards while they abused or suffocated a cellmate.

The body often would be left behind, or there would be a pool of blood in the cell for other prisoners to clean up.

“We can tell from the sound of the prisoner as he dies behind us. He dies a meter away. I don’t see anything, but I see with my ears,” said Alshogre, who at age 17 moved among nearly 10 detention facilities in Syria for two years before landing in Saydnaya.

Alshogre survived nine months in the prison, paying his way out in 2015—a common practice. He suffered from tuberculosis and his weight fell to 35 kilograms (77 pounds).

Two cousins detained with him in western Syria didn’t survive, dying a year apart in a military intelligence detention facility. The younger one died in Alshogre’s arms, deprived of food and so weak he was unable to walk to the bathroom on his own.

Still, Alshogre said nothing could have prepared him for Saydnaya.

At one point, Alshogre was called out by his guards “for execution,” he said. He was brought before a military trial and told not to raise his gaze at the judge, who asked him how many soldiers he had killed.

When he said none, the judge spared him.

Death in Saydnaya was always present, “like the air,” Alshogre said.

Once when he was deprived of food for two days, a cellmate handed him his food ration—and died days later.

“This is someone who gave me his life,” he said. Another cellmate died of diarrhea, also common in the prison.

## Syrian rebels and insurgents battle in split over peace push

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Syria’s rag-tag rebel groups and insurgents trying to oust President Bashar Assad have turned their guns on each other in some of the worst infighting yet, with al-Qaida-linked fighters battling other factions in a split between supporters and opponents of the Russian-led push for a new peace process for the war-torn country.

The clashes—mainly in opposition-held areas in northern Syria—have led to the formation of two new coalitions but have also raised the specter of more fractures among rebel factions, already struggling to recover from their December loss of the eastern half of the city of Aleppo to Assad’s forces.

At the root of the infighting is a call that came at the end of the peace talks last month in the Kazakh capital of Astana. Russia, Turkey and Iran—sponsors of the gathering—urged Syria’s rebels to dissociate themselves from al-Qaida’s affiliate in Syria, now

known as the Fatah al-Sham Front.

The Astana meeting was designed to pave the way for political talks to be held in Geneva in late February but it also marked a new push in efforts to resolve Syria’s conflict, with Russia and Iran, Assad’s main supporters, and Turkey, the rebels’ chief backer, pledging to put their influence behind the truce. The United States, busy with the presidential transition, played no significant role in Astana.

The Fatah al-Sham Front, previously called the Nusra Front, has been excluded from all negotiations and cease-fires, along with the Islamic State group—both considered by the international community to be terrorist organizations.

For the rebels, however, the exclusion of al-Qaida’s affiliate is a sore point as many groups have close links with it on the ground, perceiving it to be the most powerful force against Assad’s army and allied militiamen.

Fatah al-Sham signaled its determination to fight back—even as the rebels were still sitting at the table in Astana.

On Jan. 23, Fatah al-Sham fighters surrounded the offices in Idlib province belonging to one of the rebel groups that had sent representatives to

Astana, the U.S.-backed Jaish al-Mujadeen, and hours later, forced its fighters to surrender.

“Al-Qaida has been waging a campaign to sideline and ultimately eliminate moderate opposition groups since it entered Syria,” said Jennifer Cafarella of the Washington-

## Israel passes law legalizing thousands of settlement homes

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israel’s parliament on Monday passed a contentious law meant to retroactively legalize thousands of West Bank settlement homes built unlawfully on private Palestinian land, a step that is expected to trigger international outrage and a flurry of lawsuits against the measure.

The explosive law is the latest in a series of pro-settler steps taken by Israel’s hard-line government since the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president. He is seen as more sympathetic to Israel’s settlement policies than his

fiercely critical predecessor, and the Israeli government has approved plans to build thousands of new homes on occupied territory since Trump took office.

“We are voting tonight on our right to the land,” Cabinet minister Ofir Akunis said during a stormy debate ahead of the vote. “We are voting tonight on the connection between the Jewish people and its land. This whole land is ours. All of it.”

Critics say the legislation enshrines into law the theft of Palestinian land, and it is expected to be challenged in

Israel’s Supreme Court. According to the law, Palestinian landowners would be compensated either with money or alternative land, even if they did not agree to give up their property.

The vote passed 60-52 in Israel’s 120-member Knesset following a raucous debate in which opposition lawmakers shouted from their seats at governing coalition lawmakers speaking in favor of the vote from the dais. Some legislators supportive of the law took pictures of the plenum during the vote while some spectators in visitors’ seats

raised black cloth in apparent protest.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had voiced misgivings about the law in the lead-up to vote, reportedly expressing concern that it could lead to international censure and saying he wanted to coordinate with the Trump administration before moving ahead on a vote.

He told reporters on a trip to London that he had updated Washington and was ready to move ahead with the law. He was on his way back from the trip and was not present for the vote.

## Focus

AP  
This photo made on Sunday Jan.1, 2017, shows a tenth grader attending a class how to investigate a computer network that has been hacked in Beit Shemesh, Israel. In its quest to become a world leader in cyber security and technology, Israel is placing its hopes in the country's youth.

# In Israel, teaching kids cyber skills is a national mission

By DANIEL ESTRIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BEIT SHEMESH, Israel** (AP)—In some Israeli schools, fourth-graders learn computer programming while gifted 10th-graders take after-school classes in encryption tactics, coding and how to stop malicious hacking. The country even has two new kindergartens that teach computer skills and robotics.

The training programs—something of a boot camp for cyber defense—are part of Israel's quest to become a world leader in cybersecurity and cyber technology by placing its hopes in the country's youth.

To that end, Israel announced this week the establishment of a national center for cyber education, meant to increase the talent pool for military intelligence units and prepare children for eventual careers in defense agencies, the high-tech industry and academia.

"You students need to strengthen us with your curiosity," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told an Israeli cyber technologies expo, sitting next to high school students in a training program overseen by the defense establishment.

"Your years in the security services will be golden years for the security of the nation."

Israel has long branded itself the "Cyber Nation" but authorities say they have been facing a shortage of cyber experts to keep up with the country's defense needs and keep its cybersecurity industry booming.

To build up a wellspring of talent, Israel is starting young: teaching children the basic building blocks of the web.

"In the first grade, they learn the letters, then how to read and how to write. We are building the next level of knowledge—how to code," said Sagy Bar of the Rashi Foundation, a philanthropic group running the cyber education center as a joint venture with Israel's defense establishment and academic institutions.

The center will also oversee educational programs launched in recent years, including the Education Ministry's Gvachim pilot program that introduced computer and robotic classes to the fourth-grade curriculum in 70 schools, and the after-school Magshimim program, which trains talented high-schoolers from underprivileged areas in college-level cyber skills.

Drawing youth into the

highly technical field of cybersecurity is not a novelty, and the United States and Britain have implemented similar training programs.

The National Security Agency, America's global surveillance and intelligence agency, co-sponsors free cybersecurity summer camps throughout the U.S. for students and teachers from kindergarten through high school. The GenCyber program seeks to improve cybersecurity teaching in schools as early as kindergarten.

GCHQ, the U.K.'s powerful signals intelligence agency, has a host of youth outreach initiatives, including an annual competition for amateurs and youngsters at dramatic venues such as Winston Churchill's World War II-era bunker under central London.

In 2015, the competition invested in whizz kid-friendly puzzle games—including a specially designed Minecraft level—to pique children's interest. Also, GCHQ is trying to bridge the gender gap and last month announced a national cybersecurity challenge for schoolgirls aged 13 to 15.

In Israel, the two cyber training programs feed Israel's vaunted military intelligence Unit 8200, which intercepts digital communications and

collects intelligence on Israel's enemies across the Middle East—the Israeli equivalent of America's NSA.

Many members of the unit eventually move on to Israel's high-tech and cybersecurity industries. Some of the most successful technology companies have been founded by the unit's veterans.

Military service is compulsory for most Jewish high school graduates in Israel, giving military intelligence the power to enlist the country's best and brightest.

For military intelligence, it's a win-win situation.

"Israeli talent comes mandatorily to the army," Col. R. deputy head of Unit 8200, told The Associated Press over the phone.

The colonel, who could only be identified by her first initial under military regulations, said Unit 8200 is trying to encourage more girls to study computer sciences and eventually join the unit as "cyberists."

In the Magshimim program, applicants must first pass a home quiz of riddles and challenges involving math, logic and algorithms. Previous computer expertise is not needed, and they can even look up answers online or ask a parent for help. The idea is to recruit stu-

dents who are not intimidated by challenges, organizers say.

Those accepted to the program meet twice a week after school for three-hour classes, complete 10 hours of cyber-related homework a week, and participate in workshops twice a year.

During a recent workshop for 10th-graders at a school in the central city of Beit Shemesh, a group of 15 religious Jewish girls attended a lecture on artificial intelligence. One of the girls was knitting an orange yarmulke during class.

In a darkened classroom across the hall, a group of teens in sweatshirts and sweatpants hunched over laptops, playing a simulation game: a fictional network of computers had been hacked, and they had 45 minutes to learn an unfamiliar computer code, regain control of the network, and hack into the hacker's system to determine his identity.

"I broke in!" a student suddenly exclaimed. The fictional hacker was a popular cartoon character.

Glued to his computer, 16-year-old Shalev Goodman said he hopes to use his cyber skills in military intelligence when he enlists.

"I'm not the most athletic person," he said. "I do want to

give something to the country. So cyber is a good thing to do."

Program leaders say cyber ethics are enforced—students who use their skills to hack would not be accepted into the military and would likely ruin their future in the cyber industry.

But once in the army, the definition of ethics can become blurred. In 2014, a group of reservists in Unit 8200 signed a letter protesting its role in surveillance of Palestinians.

One of the soldiers said the unit was sometimes asked to perform ethically questionable tasks, like spying on Palestinians uninvolved in violence.

"It feels a bit like a game, like a cool computer game," said Gilad, who could only give his first name because Israel's military censor has prohibited the protesters from revealing their full identity.

During his compulsory army service, Gilad said he worked part time in programming. "You develop apathy, moral numbness ... You are far away from the target," he recounted of those days.

Still, the computer skills Gilad gained while in the army helped him get his current job in the high-tech industry, he said.

# Good Housekeeping

## How to get kids interested in gardening? Encourage them to grow seeds



TNS  
Sue Bennett, president of California Garden Clubs, Inc., came to gardening after moving to Granite Bay in 2001. Her garden is set on three-quarters of an acre.



TNS  
A lizard decoration adds a whimsical touch to Sue Bennett's home garden.

By **DEBBIE ARRINGTON**  
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.**—Sue Bennett became a gardening advocate by accident. Now it's her full-time cause.

Her focus is devoted to young sprouts, kids just learning how plants grow. The more they learn and share, the more that gardening passion takes root.

"I don't want them to wait until retirement—like me—to discover gardening is fun," said the Granite Bay, Calif., woman.

In this effort, Bennett has enlisted grown-up gardeners throughout the state, including California's largest nonprofit garden group.

Bennett, 55, serves as president of California Garden Clubs Inc., the umbrella organization for about 350 gardening clubs with more than 22,000 members statewide. Before her term ends June 30, she's dedicated to a special project: "Encouraging Future Gardeners."

"Instead of ABC, I've got EFG," she said. "It makes it easy to remember."

Her goal is to assemble and distribute 14,000 gardening kits to kids throughout California via classrooms, youth groups and gardening clubs. The kits feature seeds, activity cards and supplies. For example, the herb kit includes a fabric pot and seeds for chamomile and other herbs. The "Pollinator Paradise" kit contains flower seeds and "good bug" masks for kindergartners to make. All five kits come with a wealth of gardening how-to's and fun



TNS  
Sue Bennett shows parts of starter kits meant to get children involved with gardening.

facts designed to pique youthful interest.

"You don't need a backyard to garden; you can do this on a windowsill," Bennett said. "This is something children can do with their parents."

Bennett sees the kits as bridging a gardening gap.

"Lots of schools are introducing kids to gardening," she explained. "But we found (in prior projects) the kids weren't always taking home what they've learned. These kits let them take their gardening home and get their parents involved, too."

Eventually, those youngsters also may grow garden clubs.

"So many retirees are in garden clubs," she said, "but how do you get today's generation involved with gardening? This program is also about educating children, not just growing seeds."

Bennett found her inspira-

tion by working with another youth gardening program, Kids Growing Strong.

"I liked it because as a kid I never did it," Bennett said. "We have no children, just two dogs, but I really enjoy working with children."

Kids Growing Strong strives to introduce children to the value of plants and growing gardens.

"Gardens were once an important part of daily life for most people," said Maryanne Lucas, founder of Kids Growing Strong. "People knew the value of gardens and plants through intimate, daily experiences. But things changed."

"Never before in the course of history have so many people, and especially our children, been so far removed from nature and so distanced from the earth, plants and fellow creatures," Lucas said. "The result is children who are less healthy, less 'en-

lightened' and less knowledgeable about the natural world upon which our lives depend."

Lucas supports Bennett's efforts and helped her launch her kit project.

"Sue's project is very exciting," Lucas said. "With very little effort, it makes it easy for gardeners and non-gardeners alike to introduce children to the wonders of the natural world and lessons to be learned in a garden."

Bennett's also raising \$14,000 to fund this effort.

Bennett's sense of fun fills her project and her garden, set on 3/4 of an acre. Gardening did not come naturally to the Massachusetts native. "When my parents bought a house, I wasn't allowed to walk on the grass."

A software engineer turned

high-tech marketing expert, Bennett and her husband, Bill, both worked for Hewlett-Packard in the Bay Area. But they fell in love with Granite Bay and decided that's where they wanted to retire. They relocated in 2001.

"Bill's job transferred, but mine didn't, so I retired—before I was 40," Sue said. "I got to work on the house and yard instead."

That's when she took up gardening.

"When I started, I didn't know an annual from a perennial," Bennett recalled. "All I knew is I had lots of weeds to pull and wanted something else."

Bennett sought out experts for advice and found them in a local club, Roseville Better Gardens, whose members quickly realized and appreci-

ated her organizational skills.

"I joined in January 2005," she said. "I became vice president in March. In October, I became president. And it just sort of grew from there."

She eventually became a CGCI district director, vice president and now statewide president. Bennett also threw herself into her own garden, which now features more than 400 roses as well as a patio succulent garden.

When she's not outside working on the garden, she's huddled over a table in her kitchen, assembling gardening kits for kids.

"People say it's a lot of work, and you'll never know the results," Bennett said. "The project will be a success when these kids join garden clubs and become gardeners 20 years from now."



TNS  
Sue Bennett's succulent garden. "When I started (gardening), I didn't know an annual from a perennial," she recalled.

## Life & Style

# Corruption tour shines unflattering light on graft in Mexico

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—Look to your right: There's the Pillar of Light, a towering monument shaped like a vanilla wafer cookie. A company was allegedly allowed to overcharge the equivalent of millions of dollars for steel used in its construction.

Look to your left: A sculpture commemorating 43 teachers' college students who were "disappeared" in 2014 in the southern state of Guerrero, by police officers allegedly in league with drug cartel thugs and corrupt local officials.

This is the newest addition to the ubiquitous open-air tour buses crisscrossing Mexico City each day: The Corruptour, which instead of taking folks to historic plazas and churches, shines an unflattering spotlight on the murky world of graft.

"The goal is to awaken Mexicans' consciousness about the problem of corruption, which is so serious and seems to be getting more and more expansive," said Tania Sanchez, a 44-year-old volunteer guide. "It's about informing the people who ride about practices of corruption, illustrating it with the places we visit—only in a fun way."

Mexico ranked 123rd out of 176 countries on Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index, released last month, and people here commonly cite graft as a major concern along with other issues like security.

Corruption in Mexico runs the gamut from daily annoyances—a police officer shaking you down for a few bucks to avoid a traffic ticket, a city inspector demanding a bribe



not to shut down a business—to shocking scandals involving government contracts worth billions of dollars.

The Corruptour first launched in 2014 in the northern city of Monterrey. A week ago it began offering free, twice-every-Sunday runs through the capital, financed entirely by private donations and with what organizers say was an initial \$5,000 budget.

During the 90-minute tour, recordings piped through speakers mock the seamy histories behind each of 10 stops. Guides invite passengers to share their own experiences with graft, and to discuss strategies to fight back. They

The tour bus Corruptour runs through the streets in Mexico City, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017. This is the newest addition to the ubiquitous open-air tour buses that crisscross Mexico City each day: The Corruptour, which instead of taking folks to historic plazas and churches, shines an unflattering spotlight on the murky world of graft.

AP

also engage with bemused bystanders along the route, coaxing pedestrians and taxi drivers to join in chanting "No more corruption!"

Stephanie Montero, a 34-year-old medical worker from Cuernavaca, recalled how during her social service, "you saw how they gave us medicines that perhaps were not necessary, because some deal had been done with some company." Those ended up spoiling, while medicines in daily demand were in short supply, she added.

## Japanese engineer sought out by concert halls to shape sound

**TOKYO** (AP)—Behind some of the world's most reputed concert halls is a Japanese engineer whose finesse in shaping sound is so perfectly unobtrusive that all listeners hear is the music—in all its subtlety, texture and fullness.

Yasuhisa Toyota's talents are coveted as classical music venues are increasingly designed in "vineyard style," where audiences surround the stage to hear the performers up close and enjoy an almost-interactive experience, feeling more like a part of the music and being able

to be seen and respond to it.

Toyota's Nagata Acoustics has just 20 employees globally, but it dominates acoustics work for halls in Japan and is expanding abroad.

He's designed the acoustics for orchestras in Los Angeles, Helsinki, Paris and Shanghai. Another of his projects, the Elbephilharmonie concert hall in Hamburg, opened Jan. 11.

Still, when asked to summarize the reason for success, Toyota hesitates. So many fac-



Toyota

tors are involved in fine-tuning acoustics, and each hall has a different design, creating fresh challenges.

"No one can explain in one word why a Stradivarius violin sounds so beautiful, or how the way it was made may have shaped that beautiful sound," Toyota said in a recent interview at his Tokyo home.

"Whether sound is beautiful, clear or pleasant is extremely complex," he said. "So when we're talking

about acoustics in a concert hall, there is basically that space itself."

Toyota, 64, is not a musician but was raised listening to and loving classical music. He founded his company in 1971. It has headquarters in Tokyo and Los Angeles, which is his main home these days as he oversees Nagata's projects outside Japan.

Toyota coined the expression "psycho-acoustics" to describe the importance of emotions and other senses in sound. Would a pink violin, for instance, sound as good as a brown one, he asks?

## Cutting off her cellphone may bring wayward daughter home

**DEAR ABBY:** I need advice on how to deal with my 18-year-old daughter. A few months ago she was ready to go to college. Then she met this guy via Snapchat. He's unemployed, lives with a friend who is under house arrest, has a criminal record and has nothing to offer her.

We took our car away from our daughter to keep her from driving it there. Two weeks ago, she packed her stuff and left with him. She has no job, has spent all of her graduation money and is running up our cellphone bill while living with him. My wife is a wreck, and we don't know what to do.

DAD IN NORTH CAROLINA

**DEAR DAD:** I empathize with your concern for your daughter, but she is immature and in love. Because she's 18 you can't drag her back home. Tell her that now she has "declared her independence and moved out," you will no longer pay her cellphone bill. I'm guessing she'll be back in no time.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 50-year-old male who has been dating a younger girl (28) for a year now. Everything has been great with her except for one thing. I am a virgin.

We recently discussed having relations and both agree that

we want to. There's just one problem. I have really talked myself up. I lied and told her I am much larger than I actually am. Abby, I am terrified she'll dump me after she sees me. Please give me some advice.

NEEDS HELP FAST

**DEAR NEEDS HELP:** From what my "sexperts" tell me, many men at one time or another needlessly worry about their size. It's very important before you embark on any adventure with this woman that you level with her. Perhaps the story of Pinocchio would be a logical place to start.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My 65-year-old husband has been a lifelong smoker. A year ago he started using an e-cigarette. When his doctor asked if he smokes, he insists on telling him "no." I feel it is dishonest and detrimental to his medical records. It makes me crazy. Don't you think that medical personnel should phrase this question: "Do you use nicotine?" Please comment.

CONCERNED WIFE IN TEXAS

**DEAR CONCERNED WIFE:** There's a saying, "Never lie to your doctor or your lawyer." It is excellent advice. Your

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



husband is fooling only himself by concealing from his physician that he's still hooked on nicotine.

Whether medical personnel will change the way they phrase that question I can't guarantee. However, because my column is read by many people in the medical profession, I'm willing to bet that after seeing your letter, SOME of them will.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



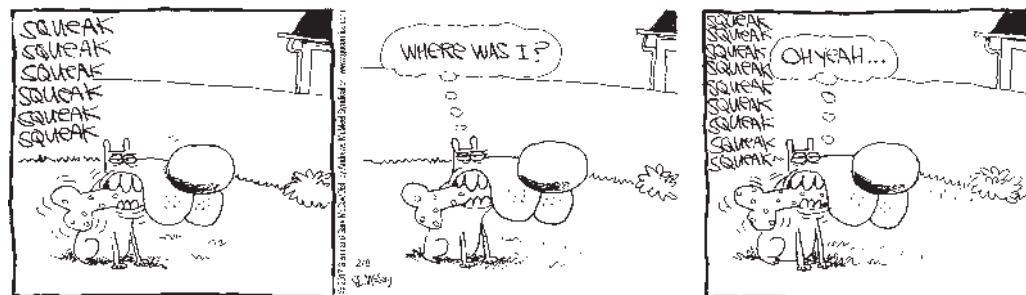
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Bro or sis  
4 Moving fleet  
8 Skewer  
12 "The Raven" writer  
13 "Around the Horn" channel  
14 Grecian vessels  
15 Seine summer  
16 Voice of Marty the Zebra in "Madagascar"  
18 Gem weight  
20 Capita lead-in  
21 Terse denial  
24 RenFest barmaid  
28 Foyer fixture  
32 Days gone by  
33 Owned  
34 Winter forecast  
36 Soft shoe, for short  
37 Melville captain

**DOWN**

39 Sweater type  
41 Bit of gossip  
43 Old dagger  
44 Favorite  
46 Farewell  
50 Phoenix mountain  
55 Branch additive  
56 Lotion  
57 Screenwriter James  
58 Opening  
59 Fall into a beanbag chair  
60 Crucifix  
61 CIA fore-runner

**1 Detail, briefly**

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

B	A	R	B	P	R	O	S	Q	B	S
U	B	E	R	L	L	C	Y	U	L	T
M	O	V	E	M	E	N	I	S	O	I
A	D	D	S	T	A	T	E	R		
B	R	A	T	S	D	E	M	I		
C	U	C	H	D	R	U	M	B	E	A
R	E	C	G	G	O	N	S	N	N	E
G	R	I	D	R	O	N	E	T	A	S
S	H	E	E	A	F	A	N	G		
H	O	N	F	R	E	Q	U	E	N	T
A	R	T	F	R	A	U	N	O	A	H
W	A	S	E	S	T	A	E	M	M	Y

**Yesterday's answer 2-8**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Seth Green, 43; Mary Steenburgen, 64; Robert Klein, 75; Nick Nolte, 76.

**Happy Birthday:** You can accomplish a lot this year if you are organized and willing to put in the hours and energy required to reach your goals. The changes you bring about will contribute to the way you live and how happy you are with the results you get. Don't allow laziness or little pitfalls to come between you and your success. Your numbers are 8, 19, 24, 31, 38, 40, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't expect a smooth transition to take place regarding work or dealing with partners. Use intelligence to help you decide what's best. If you act on impulse or let your emotions get in the way of sound judgment, you will have regrets. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Control your emotions and keep your private affairs a secret. Do what you do best, but don't boast about your attributes or your achievements. A reserved approach to whatever you do will get you much further ahead. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Settle down. Know what you want and don't let it get away. Make positive changes that will improve your life and help you reach your goals. Don't feel the need to overspend just to impress someone. Offering affection should be sufficient. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You'll be tempted to make impulsive decisions or changes based on an emotional situation

or assumption. Step away from whatever is going on until you get a clear picture of what's actually taking place. Avoid interference. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't give in to someone who is trying to bully or pressure you into something you don't want to do. Use your charm and intelligence to encourage others to let you do things your way. Travel will lead to new beginnings. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Put more energy into the causes or concerns that matter to you. Your input will be appreciated when it comes to making a cash donation. Try to offer physical help rather than financial. Protect your possessions. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** It's out with the old and in with the new. It's up to you to enforce changes in your life that will bring you the happiness you are searching for. Don't settle for less when you can have so much more. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Check out the way other people do things or the lifestyles that would suit you best. There is always room for improvement, and if you set reasonable goals, you will have no trouble turning your dreams into a reality. Follow your heart. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You can accomplish a lot if you work from home. Setting up conference calls or discussing plans with someone you look up to will allow you to reach an outcome that benefits everyone around you. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Personal situations could get blown out of proportion. Limit emotional confrontations and avoid getting involved in joint ventures that put too much responsibility on you. Maintaining balance in all aspects of your life will be important. ★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Get moving. Put everything you've got into reaching your goal. Set a high standard and prove that you are capable of anything you set your mind to. Celebrate your life, laugh and be happy. ★★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Work quietly toward your goals. Don't make an impulsive decision based on only a few facts. Time is on your side, and keeping perfection in mind will be in your best interest. Use intelligence, not muscle, to get what you want. ★★★★★

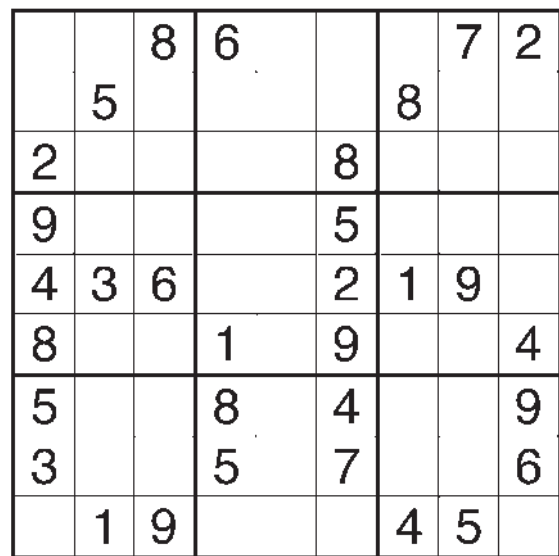
**Birthday Baby:** You are smart, confident and brave. You are forthright and free-spirited.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

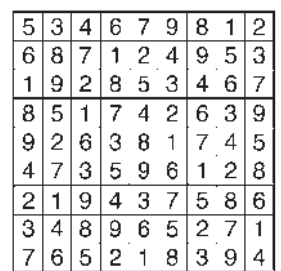
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/08

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BICENTENNIAL COINAGE

Solution: 13 letters

Q S D O U B L E D A T E C A F  
U L I T C C C U R R E N C Y R  
A L S C O L L E C T I O N O A  
R O P H N R N O O M L A B B N  
T R L A G M C E M O I R A G K  
E A A N R B D H N H I N E N G  
R L Y G E I M I P L K O T I S  
D L B E S L A L L N V S R T S  
E O S R S L E I D A A E D A P  
G D P E O D A E L E L R A L A  
A F I V A N N A Y L U I L U R  
K L R L T G Z E T M E F C C R  
C A I I I I A E M T E S V R O  
A H T S U R T E W D O G N I E  
P R O O F S R O N O H F A C T

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Bank, Bill, Brilliant, Bronze, Change, Circulating, Glad, Collection, Colonial, Congress, Currency, Display, Double Date, Drummer, Face, Fact, Frank, Gasparro, Half Dollar, Honors, In God We Trust, Lean, Mint, Moon, Packaged, Philadelphia, Proof, Quarter, Rolls, Sell, Serifs, Set, Side, Signed, Silver, Spirit, Torch, Value, Year

Yesterday's Answer: Superfecta

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com).

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Back and forth

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

# DNA

1

4

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

# WANTED

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P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Website: www.developcnmi.com

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**POSITION VACANCY:** Administrative Specialist II, Classified Position  
**LOCATION:** Rota Office  
**ANNUAL SALARY:** \$16,858.38 - \$20,484.60  
**CLOSING DATE:** To Be Announced

**NATURE OF WORK**  
The position is under the supervision of the Office Manager, Saipan. The individual works in conjunction with Saipan personnel and require coordination with the various departments in order to accomplish a variety of responsibilities. This position is tasked with promoting CDA's mission in Rota. The position has some degree of independence such as the management of daily activities-revising workflow to suit the agency.

**GENERAL DUTIES:**

- Issues loan applications and explains basic application requirements.
- Organizes and coordinates CDA related functions and events.
- Organizes and coordinates deliveries and pick-ups and routes necessary documents for Board signature.
- Prepares and submits monthly activity report to Administration, Saipan.
- Receives and receipts all payments.
- Prepares and deposits collections on a daily basis.
- Prepares daily collection report and submits to Accounting Dept, Saipan.
- Submits daily receipts on a monthly basis to Accounting Dept. Saipan.
- Performs related work as assigned.

**QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS**  
Any combination equivalent to Bachelor Degree plus (2) years of related work experience in office management or staff. Knowledge of modern office practices and modern office equipment; Knowledge of MS Office word processing and spreadsheet applications; Ability to express oneself effectively, orally and in writing; and have excellent organizational skills.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC/CDA Office in Rota or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

**Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Rota.**

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

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Offers the following:  
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Irmaramba0621@gmail.com  
Chalan Kanoa, Beach Road

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Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay lump-sum. Look for Zheng at 287-7676.

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Century Hotel is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

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Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience as a handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with a central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid CNMI driver's license is required. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment of the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. High School diploma or equivalent.

Application may be picked up and submitted to Fiesta Resort's security office located in the South Wing. A drug test must be passed as a condition of employment.  
**Closing date: February 9, 2017**

**Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**  
Qualified Women, Minorities Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### Part Time - Administrative & Marketing Assistant

Island Training Solutions is looking to add an organized, results focused, energetic member to our team. This dynamic position requires flexibility, the ability to adapt and the desire to take responsibility.

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- Must have transportation
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- Examines various reports for validity and compliance with terms and conditions of the QC Program and reports on the same.
- Discusses findings of compliance inspections/monitoring or QC recipients, pointing out any discrepancies found and recommends methods of improvements to meet minimum standards of compliance.
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- Formulates recommendations, policies, projects, or plans to stimulate economic growth in the CNMI.
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Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA's website at [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com).

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

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Aircraft Maintenance Technician (7)

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Requires: Associate's Degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner. Ensures that aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements, ensuring that the aircraft's operational or structural limitations are not exceeded. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Senior Airport Service Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associates Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Five years of airport passenger handling with at least two years of supervisory position. Monitor operational plans, provides leadership to agents, lead agents and junior supervisors to achieve consistently high quality services to customers in compliance with standard operating procedures and KPI's. Knowledge of all passenger (reservations, ticketing and departure control system), aircraft services functions (aircraft cleaning equipment, tools and materials), and the airline industry. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Airport Service Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. One to two years equivalent work experience. Provides assistance and customer service to passengers by performing various customer service duties in the airport such as check-in, reservations, baggage and processing. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) (2)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Airport Service Agent (Passenger) (2)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/ reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Chinese. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

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Interested applicants may send their applications to [recruitment@poiaviation.com](mailto:recruitment@poiaviation.com). To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than February 15, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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# LBJ's 3 forces OT, then Irving lifts Cavs past Wiz



WASHINGTON (AP)—There's always something with LeBron James, and Monday night was no different, from the gimme layup he somehow missed after admittedly traveling ... to the turnaround, step-back, fade-away 3-pointer he banked in with 0.3 seconds left to force overtime ... to the indignant postgame comments about a report that he'd be OK with trading Kevin Love to acquire Carmelo Anthony.

There was more involving James, who produced a career-high 17 assists and 32 points before fouling out 47 seconds into the extra period. That's when Kyrie Irving took over, scoring 11 of his 23 points in OT, including a tiebreaking 3 with 35 seconds left, to help the Cleveland Cavaliers edge the Washington Wizards 140-135 in a game that felt more akin to the playoffs in late May than the regular season in early February.

Love provided 39 points, 12 rebounds and the length-of-the-court pass that led to James' "He did what?!" 3 at the end of regulation.

"LeBron made a heck of a shot," Wizards guard John Wall said, "that you probably make one in a million times."

It put the reigning NBA champion Cavs in position to end surging Washington's winning streaks of 17 in a row at home and seven in a row overall.

When Love shot free throws in the third quarter, a small section of spectators sang, "Bron wants Melo," a reference to a New York Daily News report citing an unidentified source that said James is pushing the Cavs to get Anthony from the Knicks - even if it means sending Love to New York.

Asked about the story, the four-time NBA MVP replied: "It's trash. And the guy who wrote it is trash, too, for writing that."

For his part, Love posted a quote from Winston Churchill on his Instagram account: "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put its pants on."

Bradley Beal had 41 points and eight assists for the Wizards, but he missed a potential tying 3 with about 5 seconds left in OT.

It was a back-and-forth contest, with little runs by each team, plenty of offense, lapses on defense, a lot of complaints about the officiating by folks on both sides and a couple of technical fouls.

All in a hyped-up atmosphere that several players likened to the postseason.

"You have it circled on your schedule for a long time," Beal



said about facing the Cavs. "That was definitely a test and a battle for us. We did a tremendous job of handling it."

With 12.2 seconds left, and Washington up 118-117, James drove past Wall, aided by an extra step that he said "kind of threw me off of my rhythm," and somehow flubbed a wide-open layup.

After Wall's foul shots made it 120-117 with 3.4 ticks left, Love got the ball to James on a play the Cavaliers call "Touch-down." James' 3 went off the glass and through the net as he landed out of bounds—setting the stage for Irving to pull out the victory in OT.

## Heat 115, Timberwolves 113

In Minneapolis, Goran Dragic scored 33 points and hit a career-high seven 3-pointers to lead Miami to its 11th straight victory.

Hassan Whiteside had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and the Heat shot 53.6 percent (15 for 28) from 3-point range. Miami made 10 more 3s than Minnesota and held on late after a furious comeback attempt by the Wolves.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 35 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost four straight games. Andrew Wiggins added 27 points, but missed two shots with chances to win the game in the final 8.5 seconds.

The Heat led by as many as 14 points — the ninth straight game they have led by double digits — and now own the

second-longest winning streak in the NBA this season. Golden State won 12 in a row in November.

## Bulls 112, Kings 107

In Sacramento, California, Dwyane Wade scored 31 points, including the final seven for Chicago in a victory over Sacramento.

After the Bulls squandered a 27-point lead in the second half, Wade hit a tiebreaking 20-footer to put them ahead for good, 109-107, with 13 seconds left. Then he stole the inbounds pass following a timeout and went the length of the court for a dunk to make it a four-point margin.

Wade added a free throw with a second to play following the second technical foul of the night on a furious DeMarcus Cousins, who thought he was fouled on a 3-point attempt. Cousins was ejected after picking up his 16th technical of the season, a total that triggers an automatic one-game suspension.

Just after the third quarter ended, a minor fracas broke out that involved Cousins, teammate Matt Barnes, Bulls assistant head coach Jim Boylen and Chicago forward Taj Gibson. Cousins shoved Boylen's arm away as tempers flared, and all three players were given technicals.

## Grizzlies 89, Spurs 74

In Memphis, Tennessee, Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph scored 15 points each, Mike Conley added 12 points and

nine assists and Memphis held San Antonio to a season low in points.

The game was close until Memphis stretched the margin to double digits just past the midway point of the fourth quarter and maintained the cushion the rest of the way.

The Spurs ended a three-game winning streak and suffered through the absence of leading scorer Kawhi Leonard, a late scratch with a quad contusion.

David Lee led the Spurs with 14 points, converting all six of his shots. LaMarcus Aldridge added 13 points, connecting on only 4 of 19 shots. Danny Green and Manu Ginobili finished with 12 points each for San Antonio, which began an eight-game road trip.

## Pacers 93, Thunder 90

In Indianapolis, Paul George had 21 points and eight rebounds, Jeff Teague scored 17 points and Indiana rallied from an 11-point halftime deficit to beat Oklahoma City.

Indiana has won seven straight games—its longest winning streak in almost two years.

Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 27 points, a season-high 18 rebounds and nine assists, falling just short of his 26th triple-double this season.

The Thunder struggled mightily in the second half, giving away a 52-41 halftime lead by midway through the third quarter. The Pacers then scored on a 12-4 run to take a 79-72 advantage early in the

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) dribbles the ball against Washington Wizards forward Otto Porter Jr. (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, in Washington.

fourth and never trailed again.

## Raptors 118, Clippers 109

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan had 31 points and Toronto overcame a triple-double from Blake Griffin to beat Los Angeles.

Griffin, who had his fifth career triple-double and first of the season in three quarters, finished with 26 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. It wasn't enough to prevent the Clippers from a third straight defeat against the Raptors and their seventh in eight games in Toronto.

DeRozan, who had missed seven of Toronto's last eight games with a sprained ankle, was 11 of 22 from the floor, while Kyle Lowry scored 24 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 12 rebounds for his 20th double-double of the season. The Raptors were 3-4 in DeRozan's absence and won for just the fourth time in their last 12 games.

## Jazz 120, Hawks 95

In Atlanta, Gordon Hayward scored 30 points and Utah broke open a close game with 10 straight points in the third quarter to beat Atlanta.

Hayward scored a season-high 33 points in Utah's 105-98 win over Charlotte on Saturday and had 15 points as the Jazz built a 27-14 lead in the first quarter in this one.

Utah led 40-23 in the second quarter before Atlanta had a strong finish to the half and cut the deficit to 54-50.

The Jazz led by only three points early in the second half before a basket by George Hill, who had 22 points, started the decisive 10-0 run. Hill had two three-point plays to close the run.

Dennis Schroder led Atlanta with 21 points.

## Lakers 121, Knicks 107

In New York, Lou Williams scored 22 points, Nick Young had 17 and Los Angeles handed New York an embarrassing defeat to stop a 12-game losing streak on the road.

Julius Randle and Brandon Ingram added 14 points apiece for the struggling Lakers, who won for only the third time in 13 games overall. They had dropped 17 of their previous 18 away from home, with the only road victory during that stretch coming on Dec. 16 in Philadelphia.

It was Los Angeles' first vic-

tory over New York at Madison Square Garden in six years.

Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 26 points. Kristaps Porzingis and Brandon Jennings each had 16.

## Pelicans 111, Suns 106

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis capped his 34-point night with a key rebound and six made free throws in the final half-minute, Jrue Holiday scored five of his 30 points in the last minute and a half and New Orleans ended a four-game slide with a victory over Phoenix.

E'Twaun Moore scored 12 points for the Pelicans, who led by as many as 10 in the first half but found themselves behind for much of the fourth quarter until Davis and Holiday took over late.

T.J. Warren scored 20 points for the Suns, while Devin Booker, Eric Bledsoe and Leandro Barbosa each added 14 points. Tyson Chandler had 12 rebounds and 11 points for Phoenix, which dropped its second straight.

## Nuggets 110, Mavericks 87

In Denver, Will Barton scored 31 points, connecting on five 3-pointers, and Denver overcame the absence of three starters to beat Dallas.

Gary Harris added 20 points and Wilson Chandler had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Nuggets, who were without forward Danilo Gallinari because of a left groin strain and guard Emmanuel Mudiay due to a recurrence of a lower back injury. Also missing the game was forward Kenneth Faried, who was excused to tend to personal matters.

Dallas, which was also short-handed, was led by Seth Curry and Yogi Ferrell. They had 15 points apiece, but the loss ended a four-game winning streak for the Mavericks.

## Pistons 113, 76ers 96

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Andre Drummond had 16 points and 17 rebounds, and Detroit pulled away at the start of the third quarter for an easy victory over Philadelphia.

Detroit led 55-46 at halftime, then made its first six shots of the third quarter. The Pistons went on to outscore Philadelphia 34-21 in the period and were never seriously challenged after that.

Detroit had seven players in double figures. Marcus Morris led the way with 19 points, and Reggie Jackson scored 14. Jon Leuer, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Aron Baynes had 12 each.

Jahlil Okafor scored 16 points for the 76ers, who have lost four straight.

# Patriots return to New England, receive warm welcome in cold



**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.**

(AP) — New England Patriots defensive line-

man Trey Flowers walked into the team's locker room on Monday night, still wearing the "Super Bowl Champions" hat the players were handed on the field in Houston after winning the NFL title.

"I haven't taken it off much" in the previous 20 hours, Flowers said. "There was a lot of work to get this hat."

The Patriots returned to New England on Monday night, bringing their fifth Vince Lombardi Trophy home to show off for fans who filled the parking lots outside the team's stadium and lined up for hours outside the souvenir shop hoping to buy championship gear.

Defensive coordinator Matt Patricia carried the silver trophy off the bus at Gillette Stadium, where fans were dozens deep along the route in near-freezing temperatures.

"It was so packed," defensive back Eric Rowe said. "I don't know how long they've been standing there. I can't wait to see the parade."



That's planned for Tuesday in Boston, with the now traditional "duck boat" rally through the city. It will be the fifth championship parade for the football team since 2002;

New England Patriots defensive coordinator Matt Patricia raises the Super Bowl trophy following the team's arrival at Gillette Stadium, Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass., after defeating the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 Sunday in the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game in Houston.

the Red Sox have had three and the Bruins and Celtics one apiece since then.

The newly crowned NFL champions landed in Boston at around 5 p.m. and received a police escort for the 30-mile drive to their home stadium, where fans had lined up since the middle of the night—just hours after the 34-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

It was the fifth Super Bowl title for quarterback Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick. Brady was the game's Most Valuable Player for the fourth time.

This one came with an unprecedented comeback from a 25-point deficit and a game-winning touchdown in the first overtime in Super Bowl history.

"It's hard to really believe in your head because you had to be there to see it," Flowers said. "I'm just glad I was."

## Some Boston Globe editions suggest Patriots lost Super Bowl

**BOSTON** (AP)—It wasn't exactly "Dewey Defeats Truman," but some Florida readers of The Boston Globe learned a different Super Bowl outcome than most on Monday morning.

Early editions of New England's largest newspaper ran a front page suggesting the Patriots lost to the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday night, with a headline that read "A Bitter End" over a large image of star quarterback Tom Brady falling to his knees. The Falcons had a comfortable lead going into halftime, but the Patriots mounted a furious rally and won 34-28 in overtime for the franchise's fifth championship.

It's not clear how many readers received the incorrect front page. Globe officials didn't immediately respond to requests for comment Monday.

Boston-area editions ran the headline "A Win For The Ages" and showed a triumphant Brady holding up the championship trophy as confetti fell.

"When my husband saw that headline he absolutely bounced off the wall," Mary Tivnan said of the front page they received in North Fort Myers, Florida.

The Brewster, Massachusetts, couple, like many New Englanders, spend their winters in warmer climates. Tivnan said her husband,

Frank Tivnan - a former Boston Herald political reporter and spokesman for the late Boston Mayor Kevin White—went out Monday afternoon to scrounge up more copies of the Globe, for posterity.

Globe subscriber M. Charles Bakst, a Rhode Islander also spending time in Fort Myers, Florida, said he sympathized with the deadline pressures that likely caused the Pulitzer Prize-winning news outlet to fumble such a critical story for its readers.

Deadlines, especially on sports stories late at night, sometimes force journalists to write about outcomes and lay out pages before games are final. That lets news outlets publish quickly when games end.

Bakst, a retired political columnist for The Providence Journal in Rhode Island, said the headline reminded him of the infamous front page the Chicago Daily Tribune ran following President Harry Truman's 1948 re-election victory over challenger Thomas Dewey. He also wondered what impact the flub might have on the newspaper industry broadly, which has been struggling for years as more people turn to social media and online news sources.

"I worry that this incident might cause some readers to say, 'That's it, I'm done with newspapers,'" Bakst said.

## Brady gives credit to his mom, White for Super Bowl MVP win

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Tom Brady doesn't want to talk about "Deflategate." He'd rather reflect on a night he will never forget and how much it meant to his mother.

The New England quarterback spoke Monday hours after he won his fifth Super Bowl ring and fourth MVP trophy. He called the 34-28 overtime victory over the Atlanta Falcons a "hell of a game" for his mother, who has been dealing with an undisclosed health issue and was not able to attend any other games this season.

"It was great. She's been through a lot," Brady said. "Way harder than I went through last night. Way harder than everyone on our team went through last night. My dad's been there every step of the way. They set such a great example for

me.

"All families go through challenging times personally. But she has a lot of support and a lot of love. I'm just happy last night to be able to celebrate with her."

What was missing from the celebration was Brady's game jersey, which he said disappeared from the locker room. Texas' lieutenant governor asked the Texas Rangers to help Houston police look for the jersey.

Brady joked that he expects to spot it soon in an online auction.

He would not say whether his fifth championship meant more to him than the others because of his four-game suspension stemming from the Deflategate scandal.

Coach Bill Belichick said it would be "inappropriate"

to suggest that Brady put in more effort this season for any reason.

"To insinuate that this season was somehow different, that this year he competed harder or did anything to a higher degree than anything he has in the past I think is insulting to the tremendous effort and leadership and competitiveness that he's shown for the 17 years that I've coached him," Belichick said.

Brady had another uneventful interaction with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell during a photo with the MVP trophy.

He said teammate James White was more deserving of the award because of his three touchdowns in Sunday's victory, including the winning 2-yard run.

Two years ago, Brady

gave the truck he received for winning MVP honors to Malcolm Butler for the rookie cornerback's game-saving interception in the Patriots' Super Bowl win over the Seahawks.

He hinted Monday that he may not keep the next vehicle either.

"I think James White deserves it. It would be nice for him," Brady said. "It took a real team effort. ... We faced a lot of adversity this year and overcame it with a lot of mental toughness."

That said, he is definitely keeping the trophy.

When the news conference concluded, Brady looked down and grasped the silver football and cradled it under his arm as he walked off the stage.

"I'm taking it home," Brady said.

## Judges who ruled in Brady case unanimous in praise of game

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Three Manhattan judges who ruled in the "Deflategate" case differed on the law but unanimously praised this year's Super Bowl on Monday.

They included Denny Chin, one of two judges with the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals who decided in a 2-to-1 decision last spring that New England quarterback Tom Brady must serve his four-game suspension. Brady capped his shortened season by piloting

the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history Sunday as New England defeated the Atlanta Falcons, 34-28.

Chin said in an email to The Associated Press that both teams deserved congratulations for a "terrific Super Bowl," but he singled out Brady, saying he "showed once again why he is one of the all-time best."

During oral arguments last March, Chin said evidence of ball tampering was "compel-

ling, if not overwhelming," and there was evidence to support a finding that Brady "knew about it, consented to it, encouraged it."

Circuit Judge Barrington D. Parker who joined Chin in ruling against Brady, congratulated both teams for a "very well-played game" and said it rivaled for excitement the 1968 Harvard-Yale game. Parker is a Yale Law School graduate.

U.S. District Judge Richard

Berman, who ruled against the National Football League in September 2015, nullifying Brady's suspension until the appeals court reinstated it, congratulated the Patriots in an email to the AP as well.

"Last night, they showed us all never to quit, everything is possible, and the importance of teamwork," wrote the judge who had required Brady and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell attend proceedings in his courtroom in August 2015.

# Source: Royals, Hammel agree to \$16M, 2-year deal

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—The

Royals knew at some point they would have to move on from grieving over the sudden and tragic death of Yordano Ventura and address the difficult task of replacing him.

That apparently came when the Royals agreed with right-hander Jason Hammel on a \$16 million, two-year contract, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal is pending the completion of a physical.

The 34-year-old Hammel is expected to take Ventura's place in the starting rotation. The 25-year-old flamethrower was killed last month in a car accident in his native Dominican Republic.

Hammel was 15-10 with a 3.83 ERA for the World Se-



In this Sept. 19, 2016, file photo, Chicago Cubs starter Jason Hammel delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Chicago.

ries champion Chicago Cubs last season and has proven to be a workhorse with at least 30 appearances in each of the past three seasons.

He is also intimately familiar with the Royals, pitching against the club with Tampa

Bay, Colorado, Baltimore and Oakland before joining the Cubs. It was with the Athletics in 2014 that Hammel appeared in relief against Kansas City in their dramatic wild-card game won by the Royals in 12 innings.

Also on that Oakland team? Designated hitter Brandon Moss, who was introduced at Kauffman Stadium last week after signing a \$12 million, two-year deal to replace Kendrys Morales in the lineup.

The Royals appeared to be content with their starting rotation, anchored by Ventura, Danny Duffy and Ian Kennedy as they prepared for spring training. Jason Vargas was expected back after missing most of last season following Tommy John surgery, and general manager Dayton Moore anticipated several in-house candidates to compete through spring for the fifth starter job.

That all changed when Ventura's car crashed on a stretch of highway leading to the town of Juan Adrian, about 40 miles northwest of Santo Domingo. The young pitcher, who signed a \$23 million, five-year deal shortly before opening day in 2015,

was pronounced dead at the scene.

That left a much bigger void in the starting rotation.

With only a couple weeks left before the Royals reported to Surprise, Arizona, Moore moved quickly to assess free-agent options. Hammel and Doug Fister were widely considered two of the

best arms still available, but the Royals eventually turned their focus to the tall right-hander.

Hammel has a 4.42 ERA over parts of 11 seasons, though his best years have been his most recent. He 10-7 with a 3.74 ERA for the Cubs in 2015 before helping them to the championship last season.

## SPORTS

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work at the track," Rogolifoi said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Northern Marianas Athletics, where Barnes also served as president for several years, also acknowledged his contribution not only to NMA, but to other sports in the Commonwealth.

"Since he came here in the 1960s during his days in the Peace Corps, he has established a lot of sports programs on Saipan," NMA president Ramon Tebuteb said in a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

"He used to be my track coach in elementary and junior high and he is the type of coach who will drive you to do your best," the NMA head added. "For Dr. Kurt, sports

does not discriminate. He will teach you and recognize your ability and efforts regardless of your color."

*Saipan Tribune* sent a message to Barnes, asking for comments about his departure, but has yet to respond at press time. However, in an earlier interview, he said he is proud to have work with various coaches and officials in developing athletes and helping the CNMI keep up with its rivals in Micronesia. He also mentioned his wish to have people who will keep athletes and teams records so that they will be remembered and honored by future generations.

Barnes, in a bid to gather records of athletes, authored a book entitled *Sports Legends of Micronesia*, which was published in 2012 and traced back statistics as early as 1960s.

## SLLB opening pushed back to Feb. 17

Saipan Little League Baseball has announced the new schedule of the opening of the 2017 season.

SLLB president A.J. Murig in a press release said that the kick-off has been moved from this Thursday to Feb. 17

"The main reason for pushing the opening is the lack of team documents. We have set

two deadlines that were never met by all teams. As of last night (Monday), we only got nine team documents—almost all of those team documents are incomplete and there are 20 teams.

So I encourage all teams to be more responsible and to act with a sense of urgency.

We need time to review these documents before we start to make sure nothing is out of place," Murig said.

"It is very frustrating when the board is asked to start early to give time to All-Star teams to practice yet managers are very slow in turning in forms. Some of which have

been in the program for more than 10 years, but still they have issues with meeting document deadlines," he added.

Murig is reminding managers and coaches that the opening will still start at 5pm and teams must be at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield by 4:30pm. A game in the Senior League will be held after the opening rites. (PR)

## CONATSU

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ing, competition, and schooling. The other training center is located in Morocco.

"I am learning a lot of new things every day. The training here is more strict. In the first week, I started to feel pain in my shoulder so I couldn't hit any overheads. My shoulder eventually got better," said Conatsu, who arrived in Fiji late last month after she, Coume, Woo, and Paik completed two

tournaments in Australia and watched preliminary matches in the Australian Open. The group will also compete in a couple of tournaments in Fiji and New Caledonia this year.

"In the two tournaments in Australia, I learned how to be more confident about my game. They were good opportunities to improve my skills," said the 13-year-old player.

Conatsu took the championship in the consolation draw of the girls U14 singles event in the 2017 Margaret Court Cup

in Albury, New South Wales. In the 2017 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Victoria, Conatsu made it to the second round of the main draw and quarterfinals of the consolation group. Her sister Coume ruled the consolation draw.

"The tournaments in Australia were very helpful and we had a chance to see professional players," Conatsu.

Though she appreciates the opportunity to play in Australia and stay in Fiji for a

10-month training, Conatsu can't hide the fact that she is missing home.

"My family and friends make a big difference in my life. I miss them," she said.

Meanwhile, this year's White Coconut Classic will feature games in the boys and girls U10, U12, U14, and U16 singles. The event will also have matches in the men's and women's open singles, men's and women's over 40 singles, and the highly anticipated mixed-up doubles.

## FIESTA

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point from Jeralyn Castillo, picked up its scoring in late in the opening half, but still Fiesta kept its double-digit led at the break, 20-8.

Chevy Kate Alipio had 7 points for Fiesta in the first half to give her team a 12-point advantage and her steady quarterbacking job plus her teammates' support on offense in the second half prevented Sun Palace from mounting a comeback.

Alipio went on to top-score for Fiesta with her 13 points, while Irish Pagarao, Maron Diaz, and Paulynn Grace Joyce combined for 19 markers. Jeralyn Castillo paced

Sun Palace with her 14 points and clearly lacked help from her teammates as only Diane Pablo and Hannah Santos contributed to the team's losing cause, chipping in 4 and 2 points, respectively.

With the victory, Fiesta kept its perfect record in the tournament. The first finalist swept the eliminations, winning all its seven games before ousting Sun Palace and it will go for win No. 9 this Saturday against the victor in the last semis match tonight between the second-ranked CTSI and third-seeded IT&E.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics are also unbeaten in the boys U16 division after knocking out the Ol'Aces 2 in their semis game. The Zach John-

son-coached squad prevailed in all seven games in the regular season to set up a Final Four collision against the fourth-ranked Ol'Aces 2.

Though highly favored against the Ol'Aces 2, the 670 Sonics had to labor for the win and the first finals berth in the division. The 670 Sonics, who were behind after the first half, 31-32, banked on Khristian Itaas' baskets in the homestretch to thwart the persistent Ol'Aces 2.

The lefty wingman scored all of the 670 Sonics' last 6 points and finished with a game-high 27 markers. He and Jester Kintaro provided the needed offense for the 670 Sonics with the latter also tallying twin digits with his 15 markers.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	18	.647	—	San Antonio	39	12	.765	—
Toronto	32	21	.604	2	Houston	37	17	.685	3½
New York	22	31	.415	12	Memphis	32	22	.593	8½
Philadelphia	18	33	.353	15	Dallas	20	31	.392	19
Brooklyn	9	42	.176	24	New Orleans	20	32	.385	19½
Southeast Division					Northwest Division				
Washington	30	21	.588	—	Utah	33	19	.635	—
Atlanta	30	22	.577	½	Oklahoma City	30	23	.566	3½
Charlotte	23	28	.451	7	Denver	23	28	.451	9½
Miami	22	30	.423	8½	Portland	22	30	.423	11
Orlando	20	33	.377	11	Minnesota	19	33	.365	14
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	35	15	.700	—	Golden State	43	8	.843	—
Indiana	29	22	.569	6½	L.A. Clippers	31	21	.596	12½
Chicago	26	26	.500	10	Sacramento	20	32	.385	23½
Detroit	24	28	.462	12	L.A. Lakers	18	36	.333	26½
Milwaukee	22	28	.440	13	Phoenix	16	36	.308	27½

### NBA LEADERS

Scoring					Adams, OKC	249	429	.580
	G	FG	FT	PTS	Kanter, OKC	265	471	.563
Westbrook, OKC	52	522	457	1613	Whiteside, MIA	330	593	.556
Thomas, BOS	47	440	373	1403	Durant, GOL	466	868	.537
Harden, HOU	54	450	495	1562				
Cousins, SAC	50	468	384	1407				
Davis, NOR	47	478	329	1307				
DeRozan, TOR	45	448	338	1250				
Lillard, POR	47	398	306	1220				
James, CLE	46	441	229	1187				
Durant, GOL	51	466	287	1316				
Curry, GOL	50	428	213	1279				
Leonard, SAN	46	385	303	1165				
Butler, CHI	48	364	394	1179				
Irving, CLE	43	386	166	1040				
McCollum, POR	52	454	176	1215				
Antetokounmpo, MIL	49	416	270	1137				
Towns, MIN	51	457	205	1179				
Lowry, TOR	51	370	269	1173				
Wall, WAS	48	406	238	1103				
Anthony, NYK	51	421	221	1166				
Walker, CHA	50	405	193	1141				
FG Percentage								
	FG	FGA	PCT					
Jordan, LAC	240	347	.692					
Gobert, UTA	230	351	.655					
Howard, ATL	248	385	.644					
Capela, HOU	209	328	.637					
Gortat, WAS	261	434	.601					
Jokic, DEN	269	455	.591					
Rebounds								
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG			
Whiteside, MIA	46	171	471	642	14.0			
Jordan, LAC	51	182	516	698	13.7			
Drummond, DET	50	198	484	682	13.6			
Howard, ATL	46	199	400	599	13.0			
Gobert, UTA	51	194	450	644	12.6			
Davis, NOR	47	109	464	573	12.2			
Towns, MIN	51	176	435	611	12.0			
Chandler, PHX	42	142	353	495	11.8			
Gortat, WAS	50	158	418	576	11.5			
Love, CLE	42	107	360	467	11.1			
Assists								
	G	AST	AVG					
Harden, HOU	54	613	11.4					
Wall, WAS	48	499	10.4					
Westbrook, OKC	52	533	10.2					
James, CLE	46	395	8.6					
Teague, IND	50	409	8.2					
Rubio, MIN	45	365	8.1					
Green, GOL	48	353	7.4					
Williams, DAL	37	263	7.1					
Lowry, TOR	51	358	7.0					
Rondo, CHI	42	276	6.6					

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 2017 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Andrei Kaith Lynn Chavez, left, and her brother Mark Jainier race to the finish line of 2017 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim held in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club last Saturday.



Father and son, Richard, right, and Moshe run out of the water.



Wataru Kadokura checks on the people waiting at him at the finish line.



Taiyo Akimaru nears completion of the two-loop course.



Jinnosuke Suzuki slowly gets out of the water.



Jinie Thompson tries to keep her balance.



Kento Akimaru is first out of the water in the nearly 3K race.



Savita Sikkell takes her time getting out of the water.



LBJ's 3 forces OT,  
then Irving lifts  
Cavs past Wiz

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Patriots return  
to New England,  
receive warm  
welcome in cold

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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Fiesta, Sonics enter finals

## Sports community thanks Barnes



JON PEREZ

Former Northern Marianas Sports Association vice president Kurt Barnes, second left, is seen here with contractors bidding for the resurfacing of the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility inspecting the oval last year.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The CNMI sports community lost one of its stalwarts as Dr. Kurt Barnes returned to California to be with his family.

Barnes left Saipan yesterday after working as official and coach of different sports for more than five decades. He last served as vice president of the Northern Marianas Sports Association and chair of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame Committee.

"Our vice president has resigned as he will return to California to reunite with his brothers and other family members. We thank Kurt for his service to NMSA and the CNMI sports," NMSA president Michael White announced during the group's monthly meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Before leaving Saipan, Barnes worked with NMSA and its executive director Tony Rogolifo in securing funding

for the resurfacing project at the Oleai Sports Complex.

"He will be missed. He helped me with the documents/letters that were submitted to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for the resurfacing

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**F**iesta Resort & Spa Saipan and 670 Sonics dispatched their respective opponents to make it to the finals of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Sonics were the first ones to secure a finals ticket after edging the Ol'Aces 2, 56-52, in their semis duel in the boys U16 division. In the women's division pairing, Fiesta Resort & Spa waltzed past Sun Palace, 41-20, to move this Saturday's title game.

Fiesta held Sun Palace to a solitary point in the first 16 minutes of the 20-minute half to set up the easy win. Sun Palace, which got its lone

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Chevy Kate Alipio fakes off the defense of Sun Palace's Diane Pablo during their playoff game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## Conatsu pulling through in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

When Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association holds the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic this weekend, the annual competition will be without its five key junior players.

Conatsu Kaga is among the five as she, her sister Coume, Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, and Carol Lee are in Fiji training at the ITF/OTF Pacific Oceania Regional Training Center in Lautoka. The Kaga siblings, Paik, and Woo will be staying in the training center until late

October, while Lee will be there until only May as she is scheduled to return to Saipan and travel to Guam for ITF Juniors tournaments.

"Training in Fiji can be so hard, but at the same time it's really fun. It's a bit harder than Saipan training because we do physical workouts almost every day," said Conatsu in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last weekend.

Conatsu and company received a training scholarship late last year from ITF/OTF at one of the two centers that offer excellent tennis facilities, coach-

See CONATSU on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Conatsu Kaga, seated left, poses with other members of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team that competed in two tournaments in Australia last month.